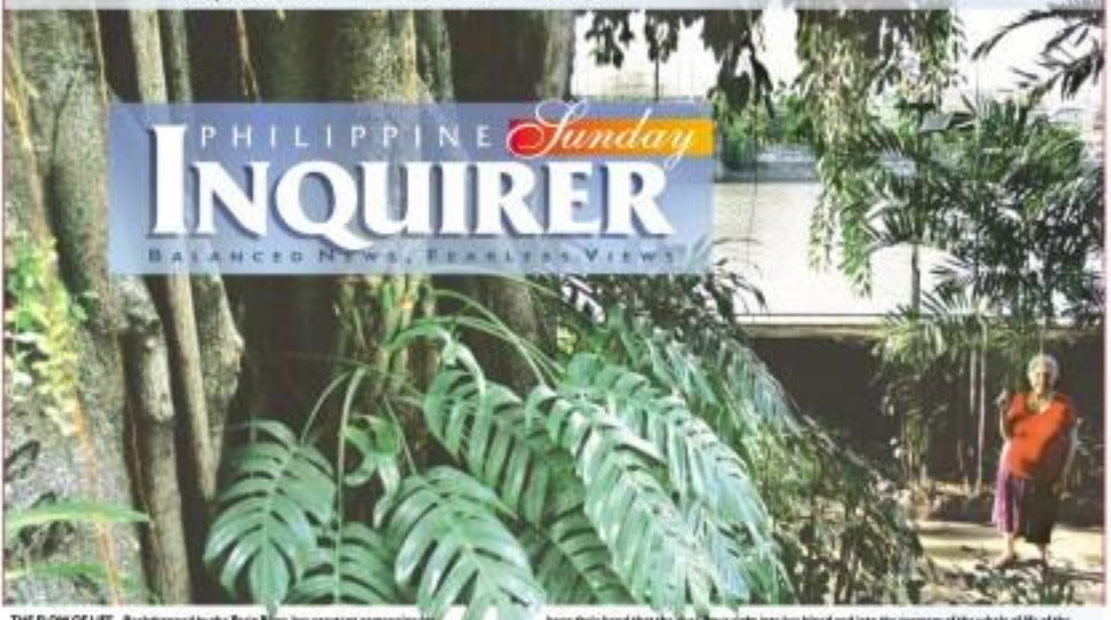
Sunday, March 22, 2009 ★ Vol. 24 / No. 104 website www.inquirer.net

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



THE FLOW OF LIFE Backdropped by the Pasig River, her constant companion for the past 85 years, Jessie Lichauco, 97, can see the waters from her brick-tiled backyard and from nearly every part of her house in Sta. Ana, Manila. So enduring has been their bond that the river flows right into her blood and into the memory of the whole of life of the family she raised, nourished, treasured, celebrated and loved by its bank. In the foreground is a banyan tree, as old as it is enormous. JOY M. ZITA

Panlilio eyes presidency

GOV. ED PANLILIO: Doesn't have to be me. I will support a rival reformist.

'I'm open to taking up the challenge'

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THIS EARLY, PLEDGES FROM overseas are coming in for Pampanga Gov. Ed Panlilio.

An elderly gentleman has expressed intention to part with $100 from his budget for hypertension and diabetes medicine. A Filipino in New York is also putting in $500, and another is contributing $5.

A member of Philippine Military Academy Class of 1980 has pledged an initial $500. A contract worker in Jordan is donating $1,000.

Pledges like these from ordinary Filipinos clamoring for good governance and willing to put their money where their mouth is are serving to encourage Panlilio to seriously consider seeking the presidency in 2010, with Isabela Gov. Grace Padaca as his running mate.

"I am open to taking up the challenge," Panlilio told the Inquirer yesterday in an interview at the newspaper's main office in Makati City.

The Catholic priest-at-heart said that while he was still in "a period of discernment," he had taken steps to get civil society groups, nongovernment organizations and even military officials together and gather support for a reform candidate.

"I will go for whoever will represent

PANLILIO/A11

Mancao affidavit meant to preempt exposé—Ping

By Villamor Visaya Jr.
in Calamba City
and TJ Burgonio
in Manila

CALAMBA CITY—AN EXPOSÉ THAT he is preparing against the Arroyo administration may have fueled moves implicating him in the November 2000 murder of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and driver Emmanuel Corbito, according to Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson.

"They [are] trying to defuse the bombshell that I will initiate. That is why they are reviving the Dacer case. But I will not budge," Lacson told the Inquirer on Friday night.

He declined to give details on the exposé but hinted that it involved an anomalous infrastructure project.

The opposition senator met with his supporters in Canaynan on Friday. Yesterday, he was the guest at the alumni homecoming of the Isabela National High School in the capital town of Basilan.

Asked to comment, Malacañang laughed off Lacson's claim that it was linking him to the Dacer-Corbito murders to preempt his exposé.

"First of all, the Palace has never initiated any Ping story. Secondly, the good senator has been consistent in throwing bombshells [that] never exploded due to absence of evidence," Undersecretary Anthony Golez, Presidential Management Staff deputy spokesperson, said on the phone.

MANCAO/A9

Cowboy Manny flies into town, spooks horses in rodeo

By Ephrain Aguilar
Inquirer Southern

MALABAY CITY—TALK ABOUT A dramatic entrance.

A helicopter descended from the heavens, stirring up dust, while a political jingle played at full blast. Sen.

COWBOY/A9

Gov't wants Blair, Annan as peace advisers

GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATORS ARE proposing that former British Prime Minister Tony Blair and former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan be invited to serve as advisers to the peace talks with the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Avelino Razon, the presidential adviser on the peace process, said the government peace panel has suggested that an eminent persons group composed of internationally respected figures, like Blair and Annan, be created to advise and guide the discussions.

The idea was broached by the panel's chair, Rafael Seguis, in reaction to

GOV'T WANTS/A9

The Pasig speaks 'the voice of a river's past'

By Sunshine Lichauco de Leon

ON A HISTORIC STREET OF STA. Ana known as Herran (now Pedro Gil), stands a magnificently simple, 200-year-old Spanish colonial house, whose garden ends on the banks of the Pasig River. This is the home of 97-year-old Jessie Lichauco, whose memories reveal the spirit and heartbeat of a river whose glory has been forgotten with time and neglect.

Having lived the past 85 years by the Pasig River, Lichauco feels she has one of the most beautiful views in the world. Sitting on the covered porch watching the boats pass by, she declares: "Having seen this river gracefully flow as I myself have matured, I feel very possessive and protective of my part of the river. It's beautiful and quiet and the most perfect little

THE PASIG/A8

The jobless find strength in numbers

(Editor's Note: Times are tough. Let's do something about it. Now. Share with us what you or other people are doing to get you through the rough times. If we are together, we can cope. If not, we can't. Send suggestions to yourvoice@inquirer.com.ph)

COPING TOGETHER

Project Editor: Joan V. Saavedra Jr.

By Mariecar Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SAN PEDRO, LAGUNA—DOZENS of workers who lost their jobs in the sprawling industrial zone here as a result of the global recession refuse to just sit in a corner and wallow in depression.

Many have organized themselves

THE JOBLESS/A8

CROWN JEWEL The five-day fiesta in Alaminos City that started on March 19, the feast of its patron, St. Joseph, is in full swing in this coastal city in Pangasinan that's home to the Hundred Islands National Park, pride and most precious gem that's now repositing itself big time in the world tourism map.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **KC: I plan to show** PJ my Paris: Small cafés, quaint shops and secret gardens / **ENTERTAINMENT**
- **How Pinoy-Greek** David Michael Bautista Jr. turned himself into superstar wrestler Batista
- **Meet some** entertaining masters and find out their formula for the perfect dinner / **SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE**
- **Why a French farm** in Abra has drawn the likes of Jaime Augusto Zobel
- **How Manila's** club scene is coping with or without drugs / **SUNDAY LIFESTYLE**
- **Asean Youth** RP batters eye 6th title
- **It's back** to Solar for Pacquiao **SPORTS** /A24
- **LIFESTYLE**/F4

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY: For most parts of Luzon, partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainstorms or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Central Mindanao	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Legaspi	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Puerto Princesa	Partly Cloudy	Ozamiz	Partly Cloudy
Iloilo City	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calbayog	Partly Cloudy	Iligan	Partly Cloudy

Mobile Alert: Text ON REGIOS ENGAGING space to 2329 for Globe • Text REGIOS ON ENGAGING space to 2329 for Smart

E-mail: pi_news@inquirer.com.ph Website: www.inquirer.net/metro

EZ2
2nd draw: 24 30
1st draw: 18 4

SUERTRES
2nd draw: 1 4 7
1st draw: 4 3 4
Mid draw: 7 4 1

SIX DIGIT (for unique numbers)
7 5 9 9 9 2

6/42 LUZ-VIS-MIN
6 10 12 19 31 38
P4,999,131.00

POWER LOTTO 6/55 + 1/18
53 1 10 40 14 + 1
P51,858,369.00

Talks have broken down–Gordon

Senator says gov't not moving to free hostage; job left to 'reckless' officer

By Michael Lim Ubac

NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE ABU SAYYAF TO FREE International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) aid workers—Swiss Andreas Notter, Italian Eugenio Vagni and Filipino Mary Jean Lacaba—now hang in the balance after contact broke down on Thursday.

"The government is not moving [or] talking [with the Abu Sayyaf]. Maka-running bad done nothing. They're moving it so somebody who is reckless and irresponsible," said Sen. Richard Gordon in an interview with the Inquirer yesterday.

Gordon, chair of the Philippine National Red Cross, accused Brig. Gen. Juanito Sabban, head of the southwestern Mindanao-based Task Force Comet, of subverting efforts for the safe release of one of the three aid workers held hostage for over two months now by the Abu Sayyaf.

Concerned by phrases, Gordon said he had stopped talking with Albader Parad, leader of the Abu Sayyaf group holding the aid workers in Jolo, Sulu.

The senator added that Parad's group was also not negotiating with any member of the crisis committee headed by Sulu Gov. Sakur Tan, or any government or military official.

Asked who or when precipitated the collapse of the talks, Gordon replied: "I don't know. You ask those military officials."

Gordon blamed the collapse of the talks on the "unprovoked attack" by government troops on the Abu Sayyaf lair in Jolo on Monday.

"The same shot broke the camel's back. It was the irresponsible attack on Monday, where they stormed like peasants. They claimed that they had killed Albader Parad, conveniently forgetting the [revolutionary] action from the Abu Sayyaf—threatening to cut off the heads of the aid workers."

"At least, I was able to stop the execution of the hostages," Gordon said.

"[Would the] hostages still be alive if I did not intervene? We have proof of life. Now they are not being shot, they're safe at the moment. The safety of the hostages as well as all the soldiers is paramount," said the senator.

Who's in control?

Gordon said he was "frustrated."

"We were blindsided. Nobody is in control of this operation. We don't know who to go to. The military is not in control," he said.

For negotiations to resume, he advised the AFP to "send somebody who is not reckless."

A "cowboy or a John Wayne" should not be sent to start an unnecessary war, said Gordon.

Based on a gentleman's agreement between Parad and Gordon, the military was supposed to pull back at the same time that the Abu Sayyaf was to release one of the captives.

With Gordon directly talking with Parad, the plan was endorsed by AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Alexander Yano, Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro and Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno during a three-hour command conference with Gordon at Camp Crame in Quezon City on Wednesday night.

But Sabban, unknown to Gordon, prematurely withdrew his troops on Thursday.

Gordon blamed Sabban and other unnamed local officials for the scrapping of the talks.

Series of missteps

"[Sabban] has no equanimity in his duties, and he thinks that war is the solution to all things," said the senator.

Gordon blamed Sabban for a series of "preemptive actions."

Date, he said, was when Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) leader Nur Misuari was scheduled to go to the Abu Sayyaf lair from March 18 to 20 to negotiate a peaceful settlement in the kidnapping.

But Sabban's troops attacked the Abu Sayyaf lair on Monday, killing three Marines and wounding 19 soldiers.

Gordon said there was also a "sniper attack" on Parad, prompting Parad to issue a threat in a radio interview that he would behead a hostage if the military troops refused to pull back.

The last straw occurred when Sabban preemptively withdrew his troops on Thursday without informing higher authorities, thus prompting the release of a hostage.

Gordon accused Sabban of "reckless disregard for the safety of the hostages."

"I don't know if he had clearance to order the attack. Who ordered the attack? He went overreligious than"

Gordon said Parad was now asking the military to pull back further which was tantamount to pulling out two-thirds of the government troops on the island, virtually giving the rebel group effective control of Jolo.

"I noticed that [Sabban] has always patronized [my movements]," said Gordon.

The Inquirer was unable to contact Sabban as of presstime.

Set time frame for MNLF pact implementation, OIC urges gov't

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE INFLUENTIAL ORGANIZATION of the Islamic Conference (OIC) wants the government to set a specific time frame for the full and comprehensive implementation of its 1996 peace accord with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) in order to bring lasting quietude to Mindanao.

Professor Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, OIC secretary general, said in a statement that four years had passed since the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (COFM) called for the convening of tripartite talks, 15 years had gone by since the signing of the final peace agreement, and it's been 33 years since the Tripoli agreement.

"That is a very long time by any standards, and a very long wait for the Bangsamoro people who put their confidence in their leaders and the promise of a long awaited peace for a better life and a prosperous future," Ihsanoglu said.

"We cannot allow this process to go on forever. We cannot continue to participate in a process that will give the people false hopes. We have to put a time frame on this process and a benchmark to measure its success or failure," he said.

Ihsanoglu said that advancing the peace process would bring about security, prosperity and development for all Filipinos, not just those in the south.

He said that during the third session of the tripartite meeting among the Philippines, the OIC and the MNLF held in Manila from March 11 to 13, participants were hoping to reach compromise solutions for the full and comprehensive implementation of the 1996 agreement with MNLF chair Nur Misuari.

He said that five working groups had completed their work in Manila and presented their recommendations along with their proposals.

He said the working groups had also suggested solutions to a number of existing problems, and were able to narrow the gap between the two sides as the discussions were marked by a climate of frankness and openness.

"We do appreciate that the results of these meetings should form a stepping stone towards achieving decisive and fundamental results for a just and lasting solution that will be definitive and acceptable to the Bangsamoro people who have been looking to us over so many years to help them achieve democratization for peace, security and development," the OIC secretary general said.

The third tripartite meeting was held in Jeddah and the second in Istanbul. A fourth meeting is scheduled to be held in Damascus, Syria, in May.

Ihsanoglu said he would relay the outcome of the Manila meeting to the OIC...

Turkey backs RP quest for peace in South

TURKEY HAS EXPRESSED ITS SUPPORT FOR the Philippine government's peace initiatives and for its ongoing the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in its quest to bring stability and development to Mindanao, the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

Turkish President Abdullah Gul, in a meeting with Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo in the capital city of Ankara the other day, said Turkey, as a member of the OIC and of the Peace Committee of the Southern Philippines, was committed to the early resolution of what it's economic as well as the completion of the peace talks between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Romulo was in Ankara from March 19 to 20 to discuss Philippine-Turkey relations.

Turkey is a major player in the Middle East's power efforts, and is here to more than two million Filipino overseas workers.

The DFA said Romulo and Gul reviewed the status of bilateral relations and agreed to enhance ties in all areas—political and economic trade and investments, culture and education, and tourism.

They agreed to raise important initiatives this year to mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of RP-Turkey diplomatic relations.

Romulo lauded Turkey for its regional and global role as a mediator and peace builder. Turkey assumed this year its two-year term as a nonpermanent member of the United Nations Security Council.

Romulo also met with his Turkish counterpart, Foreign Minister Ali Babacan.

Babacan invited Romulo to the Alliance of Civilization Conference which Turkey will host on April 6-7.

Romulo pledged support for Philippine initiatives on the interfaith dialogue and said he looked forward to participating in the NAM Special Ministerial Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue and Development to be hosted by the Philippines in December 2009. Cynthia D. Balana

TXT INBOX MORNING NUMBERS FOR MARCH 21, 2009: 75 42 71 22 05 JACKPOT: P10,202,553.77

Take emergency jobs, Palace advises retrenched workers

By TJ Burgonio

DON'T BE CHOOSY, take the emergency jobs.

This was Malacañang's advice yesterday to Filipino workers retrenched from their jobs here and in recession-wracked countries amid the deepening global downturn.

The government is offering emergency jobs in different departments and agencies which had been instructed to save 1.5 percent of their operating expenses in order to generate 200,000 jobs.

Press Secretary Cerge Remonde said the Department of Public Works and Highways was providing emergency employment for 500,000 individuals and had approved the application of 200,000.

These hired would be deployed in the department's priority infrastructure projects.

As of early March, over 40,000 Filipinos had been laid off here and abroad as the global economic recession swept across two-thirds of the world and crept into Asia.

Remonde, however, said that displaced overseas Filipino workers should not expect to get the same jobs in the government.

"That's why we have retraining and reorientation," he said over Radyo ng Bayan, referring to the programs provided by the Technical Education Skills and Development Authority (Tesda) for displaced workers.

"Let's be clear. These are emergency employment. That's why we appeal to our displaced workers—they should not expect to get the same jobs that they lost," he said.

"What's important is that there are jobs available, and there is money to put food on the table," he said.

Displaced workers should coordinate with the regional offices of the Department of Labor and Employment to find out what jobs are available for them here and abroad, Remonde said.

Presidential Management Assistant Jose Rodriguez said the government will launch June 12 (to be dependence Day by embarking on a massive emergency employment program.

"This will be the time to commence the hiring of emergency employees who would serve the government for the next six months," he said.

"You are what you drive"

The C-Class Avantgarde - agility with perfect poise and assurance

Mercedes-Benz

ASTROLOGY WORKSHOPS!

idrc

Split Type Wall Mounted Aircon

1hp-P16,500

Free Installation!

THE FORT RESIDENCES

Enjoy the Best of Both Worlds

Relax at the comfort of your own home and be a few steps away from the conveniences of urban living. Strategically located at Bonifacio Global City, The Fort Residences is within the vicinity of major establishments like Market! Market!, Proximant, the upcoming St. Luke's Medical Center, The Fort Strip, Manila Golf and Country Club and so much more—giving you unlimited lifestyle options!

Call us today at (632) 6368888, 6836181 or 09228390888 or visit www.robinsonsproperties.com.ph

ROBINSONS LAND

Palace adds 4 more names to likely Senate bets list

WHILE EXHORTING OTHERS TO STOP JOCKEYING, Malacañang has continued to float the names of Cabinet members as potential senatorial candidates in 2010.

Presidential Spokesperson Cerge Remonde yesterday gave the names of four more Cabinet members who he said were qualified to run for the Senate next year.

He said these were Secretaries Avelino Cruz of Education, Esperanza Cabral of social welfare, Ace Durano of tourism, and Roberto Almarinez, presidential adviser on climate change.

"Many called my attention after I [earlier] identified four secretaries as unavailables. So I asked to add more to the list," he said over government radio station dzRH.

Remonde earlier named Cabinet Secretary Silvestre Bello III and Presidential Adviser Yap of agriculture, Francisco Duque of health, and Augusto Santos of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority as possible candidates.

"I'm not saying they're the official candidates. I'm just saying that they are qualified and have remained indoor," he said.

He said they should score points with the people in the remaining months of the Arroyo administration.

"They should show genuine public service; they should show genuine politics, instead of creating scandals even if these are baseless," he said.

Remonde agreed with the radio show hosts that he should not be the headstrong one and run for senator, too. He said he would retain his broadcasting after the end of President Macapagal-Arroyo's term on June 30, 2010.

"We are not one true blonde. As they say, if you have a passion, you would encourage them to go into the transport business or politics," he said. TJ Burgonio

Comelec mulls schedule changes

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS (Comelec) is eyeing other changes to the election calendar after it moved up the deadline for the filing of certificates of candidacy (COC) to November this year instead of early 2010.

Executive legal department chief Ferdinand Rafinan said the poll body was looking into the possibility of moving party convention scheduled to an earlier date as well.

"If the filing of COCs is made earlier, it means that the political conventions will likewise be moved to an earlier date," Rafinan said in a recent interview.

Comelec Chair Jose Melo said those planning to run for public office in 2010 would have to wait out under Rule expected in the deadline for the filing of COCs had been moved to Nov. 30, 2009.

The deadline for filing COCs is usually in February for national posts and March for local posts prior to the elections in May.

Rafinan, however, said it was unlikely the poll agency would change the campaign period, which is from 60 to 90 days before the elections.

The Comelec moved the last day for filing COCs to Nov. 30 to give the winning bidder of the poll automation contract ample time to produce the ballots.

Melo said the Comelec had yet to decide on the date the COC filing would commence. L. Abice

Subscribe to a Time Based Plan*
FREE Samsung L700 + 3.2MP Digital Camera
get it at Time Plan 1000
FREE Samsung M3510 + PC Mini Laptop
get it at Time Plan 2000
Get a myPhone S21 Prepaid phone kit**
Only P1,495
+ FREE P100 load
Spread the good news using
IDD 1680 TO CALLS
Subscribe now!
Over 489,546 surprise quizzes.
More than 856,117 term papers.
1 grad gift
that makes it all worthwhile.
Globe, the LEADER in Postpaid.
Flexible Offers, Rewarding Deals.
Globe

The essence of modern living
Sofia
Bellevue
AT CAPITOL HILLS
Units starting below P1M
Vicinity Map
Most affordable upscale condos within 5 mins from Ateneo. Across Capitol Hills Golf and Country Club
Studio, 1Br, 2Br Units
Grand Launch TODAY, 6PM
PHINMA Properties
535-6800 • 0917-5356800

It's World Water Day; clean up all waterways

By Alcuin Papa

IN CELEBRATION OF WORLD Water Day today, an environmental group called on all the cities and municipalities of Metro Manila to adopt and strictly enforce ordinances that would punish people who dispose of their trash in rivers and other waterways.

Ecowaste Coalition president Manny Calonzo told the Inquirer that there was a need to pass such ordinances and to strengthen existing ones by increasing fines for violators.

"We really need a strong and concerted effort from the local governments in Metro Manila. Bigger fines and stricter implementation of these ordinances could go a long way in curbing or minimizing these unwise bodies from dumping," Calonzo said.

He lauded the city of Manila which recently passed an ordinance increasing fines for throwing garbage into water bodies by over 100 percent.

Aileen Lucero, also of Ecowaste Coalition, said in a statement that the measure was "well-timed" for World Water Day, which is celebrated on March 22 around the world. It would also direct attention to the "declining health of the major ecosystems due to the unchecked dumping of plastic trash and other discards from land-based sources."

World Water Day aims to promote global awareness and action on the importance of fresh water and to push for sustainable management of freshwater resources.

"It's high time to make polluters pay for dirtying the environment and to correct the huge amount of resources being spent for clean-up efforts for perpetually clogged waterways," Sison said.

PEOPLE WHO HATE DRUGS march on the Quirino Grandstand from the Cultural Center of the Philippines in a parallel attempt to set a world record for the biggest antidrug rally ever held. EVAN ALI

600,000 PARTICIPATE IN MARCH

Antidrug rally sets Guiness record

By Erika Sauler

SOME 600,000 PEOPLE in 100 cities converged a stretch of Roxas Boulevard in Manila yesterday in a bid to set a record in the world's first and biggest antidrug rally.

The marches headed the Grand Dela Mayo in the Guinness Book of Records as the largest march against illegal drugs as certified by adjudicator from London Lorin Steigleder and Dessie Antindes.

The event was led by the Barangay Itaas Tavaga (Bida) Foundation Inc. and the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) as part of its massive campaign to educate grade school students against the dangers of illegal drugs.

Antindes told the Inquirer that they counted 1 p.m. and were reunited by a number that ended. Inscribed cards that were given beforehand at the Rizal Technical Park.

Bida interns, interdisciplinary and television artists provided entertainment as the marchers moved the marching cannot bore.

They converged on the Quirino Grandstand where Digos Chair Eleanor Gracias, Dangerous Drugs Board Chair Vicente Sotto, Rhoda Mayor Alfredo Lim, Education Secretary Jesli Lapus and Undersecretary Vilma Labrador joined the program.

The mid-day rain, President Macapagal-Arroyo was a no-show although she was invited.

Lim, a women wielding campaigner, cited the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency and the Manila Police's recent raid of a shabu laboratory yesterday and advised students not to be tempted to use illegal drugs. He said it would only lead to three destinations—the mental hospital, prison or cemetery.

Gonzales said children were his allies in the fight against illegal drugs and that he was sure the number would have doubled from the marchers participating in the event which was a big help in the country's campaign for a drug-free nation.

OUR spokesperson Undersecretary Rosario Marion Ribon, Madam Inocencia, United OIL Stanton Bush and Rainier Castillo were some of the actors who graced the event.

Bindlestiff Filipino 1st runner-up Michael Quinsaloso and Miss Barkada Ms. Isolene also modeled their appearance while the Manila Police District Band, Andrew E., Shamrock, Gardo and Hale entertained participants.

Chen Tia, host of television show "Pinoy Records," also revealed a mention in the Grand Bida March. So far, the crowd observed, "Bida ako, pasok sa Pinoy records!"

Over 4,000 freshmen get S and T grants

A TOTAL OF 4,239 BS coming freshmen have qualified for Department of Science and Technology (DOST) undergraduate scholarships, Secretary Estrella F. Alabastro has announced.

Alabastro said the scholarships provided by the government were an assurance that the country's capacity to battle the global financial crisis was being developed.

"Through the S and T scholarships, country of scholars are able to save a huge part of their salaries intended for education and are free the family's basic needs," she also said.

Science Education Institute Director Dr. Brien R. Gyrus said the scholarships would not only help the country weather the economic crisis but beef up its human resources needs in science and technology as well.

"Our scholars provide the quality S and T professionals the Philippines needs. They are our resilience in making our country move toward a knowledge-based economy," Gyrus said.

Of the total number of scholars, 3,364 were eligible under the Science Scholarship act of 1994, or Republic Act No. 7687, the government's scholarship program for science and mathematics.

These scholarships were under the following: Bachelor of Science, 1,638 slots; Merit & Full Scholarships, 947; Technology Scholarships, 512; Bachelor of Science scholarships with bridging subjects to selected schools, 178; Bridging Education in Science and Technology for Indigenous Peoples, 48; and Grants for Educational Assistance in Technology and Science Teaching Courses in Mindanao, 31.

For the DOST-SEI Merit Scholarship Program, 6,495 qualified.

Gyrus said those who qualified for the scholarships would be notified by the DOST-SEI or DOST Regional Director Offices.

She said the scholars were entitled to tuition and other school fees, a monthly stipend, book and transportation allowances and group accident insurance.

The scholars were called from 21,646 applicants who took a scholarship examination Nov. 8, 2008.

The government's science scholarship program was created along with the Universal Science Development Board. The program covers the DOST.

Starting with 30 scholars, the number now totals 9,687 as the science Scholarship Act of 1994 was enacted.

The law paved the way for a master scholarship program recommending 4,000 slots annually. For 2009, 1,000 slots are available for graduate studies in science and technology.

SPEECHPOWER
Your Professional Trainer
Free Sample Lessons
A preview of our Summer 2009 Communication Skills Program
See how we can help you.
APRIL 1 (Wed) - SP-Cubao
APRIL 2 (Thurs) - SP-Buendia
APRIL 3 (Fri) - SP - Espana
APRIL 3 (Sun) - SP - Bilbao
Time: 10am - 12nn Elementary
2pm - 5pm High School
8am - 8pm College & Career
Course advising follows
Summer 2009 classes
Begin on April 13, end of 18.
Cubao 0910/8330 0915/8331
Buendia 0910/8330 0915/8331
Espana 0921-2518821 (0949)-5115652
Bilbao 0921-2518821 (0949)-5115652

SAINT MARY'S College of San Jose
JOR

CLEARANCE SALE!!!
BRITISH CO.
CALL : 666-4181
TEXT : 0917-4531277 ; 0917-5262222

ASEAN Scholarships
Nurturing Young Minds
Full Scholarship for Secondary and Pre-University Studies in Singapore
The Singapore Ministry of Education is pleased to offer ASEAN Scholarships to outstanding students for studies in secondary schools and junior colleges in Singapore, leading to the General Certificate of Education Advanced Level (or equivalent) Examinations. Students who score good grades in the GCE 'A' Level Examination may continue their undergraduate studies at the National University of Singapore (NUS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU) or Singapore Management University (SMU) on scholarships or bursaries that the universities administer.
VALUE OF AWARD
Exemption from school and examination fees
Annual allowance of S$2,200 (approx 60,000 pesos)
Accommodation (board & lodging)
One return air passage to and from Singapore
Others – including medical benefits, clothing allowance, etc
There is no bond attached to the scholarship.
WHO CAN APPLY
Nationals of The Philippines born between 1993 - 1995
Have done consistently well in their school examinations and have completed at least their 2nd year of High School
HOW TO APPLY
Application period from 15 March 2009 (9am) to 8 May 2009 (10pm)
Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply online at http://www.moe.gov.sg/education/scholarships/asean
Application forms can be obtained from:
Embassy of the Republic of Singapore No. 905, Rizal Drive, Bonifacio Global City, 1634 Taguig City, Metro Manila, Philippines
Ministry of Education
CLOSING DATE: 8 May 2009

Noritake
The Finest Name in Chinaware
inventorysale!
all stocks must go!
February 14 to March 15, 2009
9am - 4pm
EXTENDED UP TO APRIL 5, 2009!*
80% OFF
FREE
1 pc. 14" (35.56 cm.) OVAL PLATTER
for every Php 2,000.00 worth of purchase in a single receipt.

Ghana job? Check first

THE CONSULATE OF GHANA IN THE Philippines yesterday warned Filipino jobseekers against bogus companies offering recruitment work in the African country.

In a statement, Ghana's honorary consul Rommy Z. Abad said that because of its strong economy, Ghana is fast becoming a center of migration to Africa.

As a result, offers of employment in the country abound, especially through the Internet, that are more often than not scams, he said.

"These companies, which mostly hire directly by e-mail, offer salaries that are extremely beyond the normal rates, along with benefits that are too good to be true," Abad said.

He said that when applicants sign up, they are asked to shell out money for the processing of visas, travel, work and residence permits, and other documents.

Some even charge a "diplomatic services fee" for a Ghanaian official to personally come to the Philippines to stamp their visa and deliver their travel documents, he said.

Abad said the only legitimate issuer of visas for Ghana is its consulate in the Philippines.

He said that those who have been offered jobs in Ghana should call the Ghana consulate at tel. 897-9512 or e-mail (ghanaphil@ymail.com) to verify if the companies recruiting Ghana are legitimate.

Cynthia D. Rebong

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, March 22, 2009
4th Sunday of Lent
1st Reading: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people, too, were exceedingly enfuddled, following the disgusting example of the curious accused them, and so they defiled the house which He, with blessed Blood made holy. Silently, they carried their enormities, reminiscent to most prophets to relate his people, since he had compassion on them and on his dwelling place. But they mocked the messengers of God, ignored his words, and laughed at his prophets, until at last the anger of Yahweh rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

They burned down the house of God, broke down the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon, they were to serve him and his descendants as slaves until the Kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the words of Yahweh were fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, "The land will be desolate for seventy years, to make up for its Sabbath rests that have not been observed."

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil what he had said through the prophet Jeremiah, Yahweh moved up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue the following proclamation and send it out in writing to be read aloud everywhere in his kingdom: "This is spoke Cyrus king of Persia: Yahweh, the God of heaven, who has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, has ordered me to build him a house in Jerusalem, in Judah. Now, all of you who belong to his people, go there and may Yahweh your God be with you."

2nd Reading: Eph 2:4-10

God, who is rich in mercy, overruled his internal love. As we were dead through our sins, he gave us life with Christ. By grace you have been saved! And he raised us to life with Christ, giving us a place with him in heaven.

In showing us such kindness to Christ Jesus, God willed to reveal and unfold in the coming ages the overwhelming riches of his grace. By the grace of God you have been saved through faith. This has not come from you, it is God's gift. This was not the result of your works, in you may not understand. What we are is God's work. We were created in Jesus Christ, for the good works he has prepared that we should devote ourselves to them.

Gospel: Jn 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus, "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"Yes, God so loved the world that he gave his only-Son that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but may have eternal life. God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, instead, through him the world is to be saved. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned. He who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

"This is how the Judgment is made: Light has come into the world and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. So whoever does wrong hates the light and doesn't come to the light for fear that his deeds will be shown as evil. But whoever lives according to the truth comes into the light so that it can be shown more clearly that his works have been done in GOD."

Commentary

The mission of Love in a man or small one laboring as sons and daughters of God, made "heirs of the light" by our baptism into Christ Jesus. The candle given to the newly baptized is a rich symbol of the mission of every Christian: to bring the light of Christ into a world that knows far too much darkness.

The baptismal Christian shares in the mission of Jesus Christ to bring light where there is darkness, hope where there is despair, truth where there is confusion, love where there is hate. St. John begins his Gospel by speaking of the light so powerful that the darkness could not overcome it. This is the light that we are privileged to bear, the light that we would keep as our. May we be faithful to our baptismal promises and be good stewards of the light that has been entrusted to us.

THE LATEST AT THE LIGHTEST RATES!

Many of us want to upgrade our existing gadgets using the newer, more advanced models being launched. What keeps us from doing so is, of course, our limited budgets.

BPI Express Credit understands this need and responds by staging the **BPI INSTALLMENT MADNESS**, putting together the widest array of appliances, computers, mobile phones, and other gadgets all under one roof. BPI Express Credit cardholders can enjoy great deals like discounts, freebies, and most importantly, charge their purchases worth at least P3,000 to BPI's **Special Installment Plan (S.I.P.)**.

S.I.P. is available on easy and affordable installment terms: Up to 24 months at reduced rates or even at Real 0%. While other credit cards subject installment purchases to a finance charge, BPI Express Credit has a separate credit line for S.I.P. purchases that are not subject to a finance charge. This means that all of BPI's card holders are set to enjoy Real 0%, absolutely no hidden charges!

For more buying power, qualified BPI Express Credit cardholders are also entitled to a promotional S.I.P. limit of up to 3x their regular credit limit exclusively available at the BPI Installment Madness. This allows them to purchase their dream appliance, furniture or gadget through an affordable and convenient payment scheme.

The **45th BPI INSTALLMENT MADNESS is ongoing at the Glorietta Activity Center, Ayala Center, Makati from March 18 to April 5, 2009.**

Participating dealers and brands include the following:

• APPLIANCE DEALERS. Abenson, Ambassador Home Appliance, Anson's, Asian Electronics, Automatic Center, Sogo, Watermark, Wintex Marketing, Arthurs, Carrier, Condura, Electrolux, Fisher & Paykel, GE, Imarflex, JVC, Kolin, LeGuntunia, Panasonic, Philips, Pioneer, Samsung, Sony, Toshiba, Whirlpool.

• COMPUTER & GADGET BRANDS. Acer, Apple, ASUS, Canon, Compaq, Dell, HP, Kodak, Lenovo, Nec, Nextbase, Nokia, Olympus, Sony Ericsson, Toshiba.

BPI Express Credit Cardholders can also avail of Real 0% deals and enjoy up to 3x their regular credit limit at the participating dealers' store outlets nationwide up to April 30, 2009.

Hurry! Visit the **BPI INSTALLMENT MADNESS** now and say goodbye to everything that's outdated.

It's time to upgrade!

ROSIE LICHAUCO All of 91 and still swinging. Once upon a time, swinging up, up and away under the enormous Banyan tree in the backyard was a family activity. LYNDON KUA

THE HOUSE BY THE PASIG RIVER All seven children are out of the 200-year-old house by the Pasig and it's an empty nest for Jessie Lichauco-Lobregat, the matriarch says very proud, just to tell all the members with an accent. LYNDON KUA

The Pasig speaks 'the voice of a river's past'

From page A1

spot in Manila."

The Sta. Ana portion of the banks of the Pasig River was the Forbes Park of its time. It was the place to live. She recalls a time when there were no houses between the river and the ground houses built on the river's edge, sometimes, however, the river would overflow and flood the whole garden but even that had its benefits. "We even were so surprised (because) we found shrimp (swimming) in the yard, so we ate them and they were good!"

Lichauco speaks of a Pasig River that will be "clean and safe for everyone. Boats (are) to transport these goods, people (and) it to travel from place to place and children swim in its unpolluted waters.

Wild deer

She remembers one night when a few pained ended up on its shores. "I woke up at 5 a.m. because the dogs were barking. There was a great commotion on Protea (an) area in Sta. Ana (across the river from our house). I could not believe it but there was a wild deer running along the shore of the river. I could not help but wonder how it reached (up there)."

Although Lichauco's participation in the Pasig landscape like to look at the water but not to get in it—has kept her from even swimming in the river, she shares a memory of a picnic she hosted for lunch during the 60th reunion of her primary school. The picnic-cum-cookout was temporarily losing across the river where there was nothing there but big old trees and a couple of houses. After lunch, he died his mate, jumped into the water and swam across to Protea!"

Living by the river has given Lichauco and her seven children an early view of and an appreciation for nature. It also filled her busy and often noisy home with an underlying sense of calm and tranquility.

Breakfast by the river

Breakfast by the river, watching the water flow from its mid-buying fresh fish from the lancha that came by regularly were cherished family memories.

But reminiscing, "Inconsistency was the only event to have go to the market. It was a pleasure to hear the river come alive through the voices of the boatmen, yelling 'Sprats (small fish)... tulya (clams)!'"

Her family treasures activities such as picnicking in the garden, which is positively idealized on the bank of the river and taking leisure rides up and down the river "while an entertainer but to enjoy the cooling breeze of the enormous Banyan tree in their yard—swinging to ecstatic heights that offered a delightful glimpse of the setting sun sparkling on the water.

Perfect setting

A widow for the past 17 years, Lichauco says with great affection "All of this is dearly protected in my children and a father like no other. He provided the perfect setting for us to enjoy together as a family, and we continue to treasure this even after he has left us."

Her late husband, Manuel T. Lichauco, was Philippine ambassador to the Court of St. James' and when Eva spent especially and was married to receive very and counselor to the Ambassador Hotel, independence minister to the United States. A lawyer, he is reputed to be the last Filipino to graduate from Harvard.

Lichauco says that her children, all of whom have been living abroad for decades, often return to this house to refresh themselves with the calm nature of the river.

When asked about the Pasig River's effect on her younger years, Lichauco laughs and says in jest was "to cool my temper." Her home was built to have natural cooling winds that refresh both body and mind.

A free spirit, Lichauco explains she has never felt trapped living between a road and a river. "I always have an adventurous—if I could just take the car, I can get on a boat."

It's in her blood

Now in what she calls her "later aged years," Lichauco finds great solace in the peacefulness of the river.

"Since all my children have left, I recollect events in my life. It is both educational and entertaining to watch life go by on the river," she says with a tinge of amusement in her voice.

She continues, philosophically, "In a way, it's a bit like eternity because it flows and never ends ... it reaches the bay and starts over ..."

Although Lichauco is grateful to have the river as her companion, nothing gives her more pleasure than to share its relaxing and peaceful atmosphere with visitors who drop by to chat or to simply sit with her and watch the river in silence.

The last time it's possible to see the floating waters of the Pasig from almost every part of the house means that the river has been integrated into the very fabric of her family. It's in her blood and Lichauco's love for the river has made Pasig a part of all those who love her.

River passing

The Pasig River was no important travel route during the Spanish colonial era. The trade merchants would come up the river to sell their wares. It is what earned the building of Manila as we know it.

Although Lichauco has mourned the passing of many things that were once a part of her life, seeing the Pasig detract means has been particularly painful.

She says with sadness: "I have sat here day in and day out, watching it struggle. It has been suffering from neglect for years because it is no longer needed as it had been in the past. But if we choose to use it properly it can still serve a purpose, it can be used to a greater degree than it is today ..."

Lichauco speaks with passion about the maligned reputation the Pasig has today, the abuse done to the river and to the land along the shore. She stresses that there is nothing the matter with the Pasig River at all, except the people's lack of care and disregard for it.

Gift from God

She says the solution can start with simple changes in the basic attitude of people. "The river is in the condition it is now because we don't have individual pride in the assets we have. People think nothing of dispersing whatever they don't want. We need to take pride in the Pasig. A river is a lifeline and why would you want to pollute that which gives you life?"

As she looks beyond the Banyan tree where her precious children to her corner of this shelter, Lichauco's experiences help provide a voice for the river which has grown mute with time. She reflects: "I do not have my children here anymore but I am glad I still have the Pasig. The tree and me are still flowing along. At least we are in harmony in a world that can be full of confusion and uncertainty."

Highlighting the fact that Manila has been blessed by a beautiful river without which civilization and commerce would not have been possible, she continues: "My one hope is that this generation will treat it as the jewel that it is. We must not forget that a river is a gift from God and should be treasured."

A film believer that the river can be revitalized, Lichauco dreams of a Pasig River with a future as glorious as its past. She declares: "The river is an inspiration to my life. I am convinced that if people learn to know it as I do, absolutely anything is possible. It is my joy to ride and flow with its tide as it passes by on its silent journey to wherever ..."

(The author is a granddaughter of Jessie Lichauco.)

The jobless find strength in numbers

From page A1

selves, finding strength to somehow, to look for other sources of income to take themselves and if economic conditions improve for them to find their jobs or be hired back by their employers.

Many have sought and obtained financing for small-scale businesses, according to trade officials in the region.

The Department of Trade and Industry is organizing these displaced workers into cooperatives to make it easier for them to enter into small businesses, after they undergo a short training program on entrepreneurship with the agency.

Nilda Pabroa, 30, was one of some 300 workers who were let go last February by Dadco Phil., a Laguna-based manufacturer of plastics for computer ink cartridges.

Double whammy

The job loss was like a double whammy for Pabroa and her family as her husband, Eric, also lost his job to the same company at about the same time.

Pabroa worked as a quality control inspector at Dadco for six years, earning P341 a day, while her husband was a technician on the same shift, earning P1,000 a month.

The company's decision to shut the job was to sudden, she said.

"We were unprepared, but we are trying hard to survive for our kids," she said.

Soon after losing her job, Pabroa started selling vegetables, *kakanin* (*bibingka*, *puto*) and other goods in a stall that she set up in front of their house.

"We are paying [the monthly amortization] on the house, electric and water bills, the schooling of my eldest child and milk for my youngest," she said.

No means to survive

"We do not have other means to survive; that is why we really have to minimize expenses," she said.

The couple has not started looking for other jobs in the hope that their company would take them back.

For the Pabroa couple and other laid-off workers, the DTI has started implementing the Comprehensive Livelihood and Employment Assistance Project (Clesp) in the Calabarzon region since early February.

Clesp serves as the government's "immediate action to address the] unemployment issue," said DTI information officer Charlie Dajao. The program is simultaneously implemented by different government agencies.

According to Dajao, dozens of workers who lost jobs in the various industrial parks of Laguna are starting to look at Clesp as an alternative.

Keeping the spirit alive

The quest for the training programs and orientation sessions is clear: "The spirit that our workers keep alive, the spirit of surviving the odds," he said.

He said 200 to 300 participants attended the livelihood training sessions that the DTI conducted on Feb. 9 and 16.

Dajao said this number was still quite low and his office expects more workers to turn up as the Clesp training programs in barangay halls continue to be re-launched or on being re-introduced to factories in the region.

He expects the number of trainees to increase as more workers become aware that the Clesp program exists.

The DTI regional office plans to hold weekly training sessions to accommodate more displaced workers.

Dajao said the two batches of workers who came for training had been retrenched from companies in the Light Industries and Science Park (LISP) in Laguna. They participated in a half-day training session on entrepreneurship, covering handicrafts, meat processing, food work, and discussions on business opportunities.

Funding for projects

The workers who undergo training were then endorsed to the Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corp. (SBGFC), the DTI's financial arm, to apply for funding for their projects and small businesses.

Dajao said, however, that it was sometimes difficult to lure displaced workers, some of whom decided to go back to their provinces and have no means of being contacted.

"If they were displaced six months ago, most likely the contact numbers they left with their former employers will not be the same anymore," he said.

He said the DTI is coordinating with the LISP administration for a list of workers and is posting announcements thereafter. His media to invite displaced workers to attend the training programs.

Corbito sisters still mourn loss of beloved 'Nonoy'

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

NAGA CITY—MORE THAN eight years had passed since his death, yet the two sisters of Emmanuel Corbito still wept on Friday as they talked about him.

Corbito was the eldest in a brood of three boys and two girls that he was called "Nonoy" even if that fleshless term of endearment is usually reserved for the youngest among siblings.

Cristeto Corbito Tocson said their parents died in the 1980s and it was Nonoy who served as head of the family even when they already had families of their own.

Corbito, the driver of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer, was abducted and killed along with him in November 2000.

Born on May 9, 1952, in Guijalo, Camarines, Camarines Sur, Corbito was a member of the Marine Corps and was assigned in Mindanao during martial law. He was married to Gloria Alcaraz, with whom he had three children.

He left military service to work for Dacer in the late 1980s.

Tocson said Dacer, who hailed from Camarines's neighboring coastal town of Presentacion, was a friend of her father's.

Death threats

A week before the massacre, Tocson, the second eldest sibling and the closest in history visited him in Manila preparatory to leaving for Naval.

She said she rode with him in the sedan by Dacer's driver, where he told her that his boss had been receiving grave death threats.

Being a man of few words, he did not talk much about his case before, she said.

"The reason that if something happens to your boss, something will also happen to you?" Tocson said she asked Nonoy as they headed to the terminal in Cubao, Quezon City, where she was to take a bus for Naval.

She said Nonoy calmly replied that he had long accepted risk to his life as part of being Dacer's driver and close to security, and that she should not worry because his boss had powerful and influ-

CORBITO

ential friends.

Holy Week

A week later, Tocson heard on the radio that Dacer and her brother were missing.

She said she called Nonoy's house in Tagaytay City there, to no avail.

Rumors spread that he could be including, and that he was spotted in their native Guijalo. But there was no way she could confirm what was actually going on.

The family was spending the Holy Week in Guijalo in 2001 when the news broke that the remains of Dacer and Corbito had been found in Cavite.

Tocson said she harvested money from relatives to attend the burial. She said the ashes of the two men were interred in a mausoleum in Makati City.

Big flood

Gloria Corbito Orines, Nonoy's youngest sister, travelled the big flood that occurred when she and her family were staying in Pateros, Rizal.

Her brother came to collect her and her family so they could stay with him in Tagaytay until the water subsided.

"Nonoy always came to the aid of his siblings when they [needed it]," she said.

Orines said she did not know what to do when she heard news of what had happened to Nonoy.

She said she did not even visit his remains because she was so afraid, and that she still became emotional every time she heard about him.

"I hope my brother, who was so dear to us, can find justice with the recent developments in the case," Orines said.

Mancao affidavit meant to preempt exposé

From page A1

"What many are wondering is, How come he is prompting the arrest of the suspects?" Golez said.

He was referring to former police officers Cezar Mancao II and Glenn Dumlao, who are both in the United States and involved in extradition proceedings.

"If anybody is not guilty of anything, then he has nothing to worry about," Golez added.

Mastermind

In a sworn statement issued in the United States, Mancao linked Lacson and former Presidential Chief of Staff Mike Defensor to the double murder.

Both Dumlao (referred to in the affidavit as "Rupert") and Lacson have consistently denied involvement in the crime, and maintained that Mancao was pressured by Malacañang into implicating them.

Lacson reiterated on Friday night that he had no hand in the killings.

According to him, the resurrected story he contests he knows.

"But my suspicion is my own; it is unofficial and I will not [divulge] his identity," Lacson said.

"I made a personal investigation and I believe he is the one [responsible for the killings]. But I will keep my mouth shut," the senator said.

He also said Mancao's sworn statement could have been based or issued under duress.

De Beles

Lacson hailed the claim of Justice Secretary Raymundo Beeroya of the Department of Transportation and Communications that the senator had sent an aide, Gerry de Belen, to the United States to process Dumlao's final bond.

"Who am I to finance the opposition for the extradition of Dumlao?" Lacson said. "In fact, it is even beneficial for me if Dumlao will [return to] the Philippines, as my name will eventually be cleared."

Lacson said De Belen was his media relations officer.

"[But] why will I send De Belen [to the United States]? If I were to send someone, it must be a lawyer to defend Dumlao, not a media relations officer," he said.

He reiterated that he would face all

LACSON

charges and fight "down to the end."

Political fate

Will Lacson's political plans for 2010 be derailed by fresh evidence linking him to the Dacer-Corbito murders?

"We leave his political fate in the hands of sane, discerning students," Press Secretary Cerge Remonde said over the government-run Radyo ng Bayan.

Remonde said it was not Malacañang's job to tell Lacson to forget his plan to seek the presidency in the May 2010 national elections in view of the emergence of new material linking him to the crime.

"It's better that senator on the good line, Pacific Lacson," Remonde said when asked if the senator should drop his plans and instead prepare for his defense.

Lacson is among a number of senators known to be harboring presidential ambitions.

Remonde declined to comment on the statement of retired DPOS Reynaldo Dizon-Siy, Lacson's former driver, rebutting Mancao's claim that he was ousted as the force now when Lacson purportedly gave the order to kill Dacer.

"The Palace would not want to comment on the demerits or merits of the case. Let's just wait for the legal process and the presentation of evidence. Once again, we have nothing to do with that," Remonde said.

On the senators' silence on Mancao's recantation, he said: "We leave that to the lawyers. We don't want to interfere in their internal affairs. We respect the constitutional inquiry of the Senate. After all, they are elected. They are answerable to the people."

Gov't wants Blair, Annan as peace advisers

From page A1

an MILF demand that foreigners or foreign groups come to as guarantors, to make sure that whatever is agreed during the talks would be implemented, said Ramos.

The panel argued, however, that it would be awkward for foreigners to be acting as guarantors and compelling a sovereign nation like the Philippines to implement an agreement.

Eminent persons group

"That is why we have proposed that Tony Blair and Kofi Annan be invited as observers and facilitators. But this still have to be discussed and agreed on. If the MILF agrees, then it will happen," Ramos told reporters at the Rajahnas sa Sulo forum yesterday.

Ramos noted that Blair is scheduled to come to Manila next week so that the idea of his joining an eminent persons group could be discussed when he meets with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Blair, the British prime minister from 1997 to 2007, is the main speaker at the Annual MVP Center's Sesquicentennial Leadership Forum tomorrow at the Ateneo de Manila University.

Ramos said Blair would be participating online to advise the peace process because of the critical role he played in helping secure a lasting peace in Northern Ireland, which was torn for many years by a violent ethno-political conflict between predominantly Roman Catholic Nationalists and predominantly Protestant Unionists.

Good Friday accord

Blair was critical to bringing the tough and lengthy peace negotiations to a successful conclusion, culminating in the historic Good Friday agreement of April 10, 1998. The agreement ended years of violence and mistrust and formed the basis for establishing a power-sharing government in Belfast.

Since that settlement was signed, Blair has stepped down as prime minister and assumed a new role as a Middle East peace envoy. He is the special representative of the Quartet on the Middle East, a foursome of nations and entities—the United States, Russia, the European Union and the United Nations—involved in mediating the peace process in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Annan of Ghana, who served as secretary general of the United Nations from 1997 to 2006, was awarded the 2001 Nobel Peace Prize for Peace, jointly with the UN. His leadership of the organization was distinguished for his advocacy of human rights, the rule of law, the Millennium Development Goals and Africa, for strengthening UN peacekeeping, and for undertaking wide-ranging diplomatic initiatives.

Foreign guarantors

According to Ramos, the MILF is asking for foreign guarantors because of its experience with the previous agreement, the so-called Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain (MOA-AD), that it was supposed to conclude with the government.

The MOA-AD, which would have given the MILF control of an expanded autonomous Muslim region in Mindanao, had been initialed and all set for signing when it was struck down as unconstitutional by the Supreme Court following a public uproar.

The aborted signing resulted in the resumption of hostilities with MILF groups that the leadership claims to be rogue elements of the insurgent group.

Willing to renegotiate

Ramos said the government is willing to renegotiate the MOA-AD, but within the limits set by the Supreme Court decision, and in accordance with the country's legal processes.

This means there will be no talk of independence, separation or citizenship, only greater autonomy for Muslim areas, including Christian groups in Mindanao.

If necessary, the Constitution could be amended so that the agreement can be implemented, Ramos said.

He stressed, however, that he was only talking about possibilities and was not saying that there will be Charter changes.

Ramos said he was optimistic that the peace talks would resume soon this year.

"We are indications that on the side of the MILF, very soon they will return to peace," he said. Leila B. Salaverria

Cowboy Manny flies into town, spooks horses in rodeo

From page A1

Manuel Villar, who came dressed as a cowboy, alighted from the chopper and was brought to the grandstand by a mob of aides and supporters.

This happened in the middle of the opening ceremonies of the Rodeo Masbateño festival here on Wednesday, disrupting a speech by a top local tourism official.

Five horses, spooked by the chopper's landing, dashed in the stadium like mad creatures and ran over a boy who was injured and rushed to the hospital.

Dr. Adolfo Alvarado, provincial health officer, said the boy arrived at the hospital semiconscious and was found to have suffered abrasions on his face as well as cerebral contusions.

Meanwhile, the star-struck masses bowled as cowboy Villar paved cheers and started shaking everyone's hand.

Villar, who is running for president in 2010, later gave a speech.

Senator behaving badly

For many people, the senator's entrance was too grand to ignore.

But for education supervisor Evarista Romero, the misbehavior was not proper.

"No one should disrupt an activity like that. Rodeos should properly respect the culture of a place," Romero said.

Never be [Villar] was invited by politicians, there could also be something political behind his visit, she added.

So sorry

Romero said all guests were welcome to Masbate. She added there was nothing wrong with inviting Villar but his visit should not be used as an opportunity to campaign.

Throughout the opening rites, Villar was repeatedly referred to by emcees and other politicians as the "next president of the Republic of the Philippines."

Asked for comment, Villar said he had an intention of disrupting the event and apologized to those who felt offended.

"From what I know, there were some [safety] issues but the pilot was able to land without any major disruption. Never before, if some people were inconvenienced, I apologize. The very sweet reception of the crowd on that occasion encourages me to return to Masbate sooner," he said.

Not intentional

Masbate Gov. Rizalina Kho, who was with Villar during his last entrance, said the circumstances were not to his the senator's consent.

She said they already apologized to Maria Ong-Kamatillo, regional director of the Department of Tourism, for unintentionally disrupting her speech.

"I think it was not being disrespectful," Dayanara Kho added in interview.

She added that the 2008 elections were not due for sell and politicians tend to grab every opportunity to introduce themselves to the public.

"It cannot be avoided," Rizalina said.

She also said that Villar pledged support to the annual Rodeo festival and to Masbate province once he is elected president.

Why not the airport?

Local leader Carmelita Pajara, 37, said there were varied reactions from Masbate residents. Some were offended, while others couldn't care less.

"Because the city was far an airport, I think it would have been wiser if [Villar] had landed there so he could quickly enter the stadium," Pajara said.

"It's only now, after many years, that I have witnessed such a scene during the rodeo festival" he added.

"Ok pa ngani siya magpang-presidente. Ibo ta nan ero pamahinlo," it was another comment from a local resident.

EXCUSE ME DUST Sen. Manny Villar, in full cowboy regalia, arrives on a lot of dust and hype when he arrives by chopper in the middle of rodeo fields in Masbate City.

"I am committe
overdue inv

"Yung college
sa college (BS)

Be part of S&T T

APPLY NOW FOR

BS SCHOLARSHIPS

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship Programs Offered

- BS (NAT Science and Technology Scholarships
- DOST-SEI Merit Scholarships

Scholarship Privileges

- Tuition and other school fees
- Monthly living allowance
- Book allowance
- One economy roundtrip transportation allowance
- Group health and accident insurance
- MOVE (Medical allowance)
- Post graduation clothing allowance

Criteria for Eligibility

The applicant must be:

- the top five percent (5%) of the regular high school graduating class, or a graduating student of a DOST-SEI identified high school/special science high school;
- of good moral character and in good health;
- a natural born Filipino citizen;
- a qualifier of the DOST-SAT Scholarship Examination

School Placement

The applicant must enroll in one of the following:

- CHED Centers of Excellence/ Centers of Development
- State Universities and Colleges
- DOST-SEI identified institutions
- TESDA Registered Schools

Where to Secure/File Application

- Science Education Institute (SEI) DOST Bldg.,Bicutan,Taguig City
- DOST Regional Offices
- Provincial Science and Technology Centers
- Offices of the Congressmen

Important Dates

Deadline for Filing of Application:
30 September 2009 (Wednesday)

Date of Examination
15 November 2009 (Sunday)

1st Batch:
7:00 am to 12:00 nn
2nd Batch:
1:00 pm to 6:00 pm

JUNIOR LEVEL SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships Available

- Government institutes as Fellowships for the Talented in the Sciences (Project DOST-SEI Scholarships)
- Junior Level Merit Scholarships

Scholarship Privileges

- Tuition and other school fees
- Book allowance
- One economy roundtrip transportation allowance
- Group health and accident insurance
- MOVE (Medical allowance)
- Post graduation clothing allowance

Criteria for Eligibility

The applicant must:

- be a regular third year college in any of the identified DOST-SEI scholarship and priority S&T courses;
- have a General Weighted Average (GWA) of 2.0 or better and RETAINING GRADE OF ANY ACADEMIC SUBJECT;
- be a Filipino citizen;
- be in good health and of good moral character;
- not a recipient of any other government or private scholarship except supplementary scholarship which is administered by the university;
- have no pending application or assignment in any foreign country;
- be a resident of the municipality in the last four (4) years (for Project LGPS applicants); and
- be a passer of the DOST Junior Level Science Scholarship examination and second level screening

Where to Secure/File Application

- Science Education Institute (SEI) DOST Bldg.,Bicutan,Taguig City
- DOST Regional Offices
- Offices of the Congressmen

Important Dates

Deadline for Filing of Application:
28 June 2009 (Friday)

Date of Examination
1 August 2009 (Saturday)

1st Batch:
7:00 am to 12:00 nn
2nd Batch:
1:00 pm to 6:00 pm

For more information visit us at www.science-scholarships.ph, www.sei.dost.gov.ph or call 837-1333, 839-0983, 837-2071 local 2302

...d... to consolidating the gains in new revenue by making long ...estments in human infrastructure...in science and technology."

...scholarships... may mangagalaing sa *DOST*... Aindi lamang para ...scholarships... kaanma ang para sa Masters (M.S.) at Doctorate (Ph.D.)."

– PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

Team Philippines

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Science Education Institute

ACCELERATED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Deadline for Submission of Application Form
30 APRIL 2009

ENGINEERING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR TECHNOLOGY

Deadline for Submission of Application Form
30 APRIL 2009

For more information visit us at www.science-scholarships.ph, www.sei.dost.gov.ph or call 931-1333, 839-0863, 837-2071 local 2202

ISSN 0116-2042 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Vol. 29 No. 264

OPINION

The 'Becket defense'

EDITORIAL

IT MAY BE THAT THE BEST JOSEPH ESTRADA AND Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada will be able to do, in facing accusations of complicity in the murder of PR man Bubby Dacer, is to invoke the "Becket defense."

Thomas à Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, and former protégé and ally of King Henry II of England, clashed with his monarch over the prerogatives of the Church. In November 1170 Becket excommunicated the king, who expressed his fury by loudly complaining, "Will no one rid me of this troublesome priest?" His baronial cronies took this for a royal command and assassinated Becket in his cathedral in December. Within three years Becket had been canonized by the Church; in 1174, Henry II had to make public penance—amazing, in essence, command responsibility for the murder. Not until 1538, under Henry VII, did England's kings exact revenge, when Becket's tomb and shrine were destroyed as part of the campaign to break off with Rome.

But of course Dacer was no saint. However, regardless of whether their victims are saints or publicans, political murders tend to point a finger at the powerful as the principals (or masterminds); no matter how they may wash their hands of complicity. And this is so both in terms of command responsibility and because the political context of an assassination cannot be separated from the crime.

Neither can the political circumstances surrounding the prosecution of such assassinations be ignored. Although a third possibility exists—that Dacer ran into the Daang Tuwid Bus having both motive and opportunity to cause the ruination of Dacer—a recent testimony (affidavit) and the collateral political opportunities it provides have placed primarily Estrada and Lacson facing an investigation for the crime.

Estrada has been a political albatross around the current administration's neck since the country fared as an outlaw insurrection in his name in May 2001. Lacson has been a committed foe of the present dispensation and has been particularly troublesome since 2005, launching investigation after investigation, keeping the Palace reputedly on the defensive.

Now the tables are turned.

Estrada may have been pardoned for plunder, but his toying with attempts to unite the political opposition has at least temporarily been upset by the possibility he might be charged with conspiracy to commit murder. He may claim amnesia—he isn't his style. The public, though, hasn't easily forgotten the self-conferred disappearance of Edgardo Bataoil, the Grand Boulevard Casino Filipino employee who leaked embarrassing video tapes showing Estrada gleefully gambling. That disappearance served Estrada's interests. Nor the attempted assassination of Chavit Singson: it triggered a defection that brought down Estrada's government. Then and the murder of Dacer served to highlight the sedater sensitivity and methods that discredited the Estrada presidency.

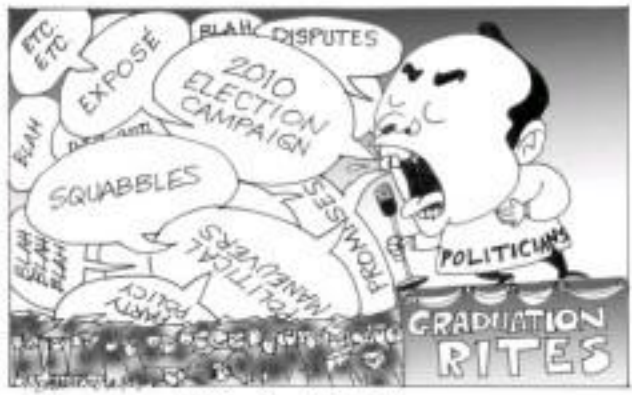
The same applies to Lacson, whose presidential plans must now confront renewed allegations of complicity in a gangland-style subsoc. Lacson's denials resonate even more weakly in a society in which certain quarters are impressed with the take-no-prisoners approach to law enforcement, and in which, perhaps, a larger percentage of its members remain ill-at-ease precisely with that organization—a reputation cultivated during martial law and spectacularly brought to court in the Kuratong Baleleng case.

The public is now engrossed in the manner in which the case of Dacer's murder is inching toward a possible resolutions. Both sides, however, stand to benefit from a delayed return of either Glenn Dumlao or Cesar Mancao. The looming release of Michael Ray Aquino, however, also raises the possibility of the eventual extradition and sentencing of all three.

All these point of investigations have bested the public's ability to sift and weigh evidence. Both the prosecution and the defense, in this regard, will be hard put to obfuscate the facts. And the facts, as we've seen, are closing in. Where once the Dacer-Corbito double murder seemed to be yet another unsolved case, the day of its closure may come sooner rather than later.

Publisher Isaac Tuason
Editor-in-Chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc
Managing Editor Jose Ma. A. Nolasco
Associate Editor Alejandro J. Gonzalez
Associate Editor for Weekend Edition Armando Doronila
Opinion Editor Jose V. Abueva
News Editor Antonio T. Enriquez Jr. • Chief, Page One Operations Nicol B. Pacheco
Chief, News Copy Desk Ruben G. Alejandro
National Editor Francisco S. Tatad Jr.
Senior Desk Editor Jaime V. Sarmiento Jr.
Editorial Cartoonist Antonio Zumel
Chief Photographer Edwin U. Tuminello
Art & Design Director Lisbeth R. Palabrica
Board Chairman Helen Y. Dee
President Alexandre Prieto Romualdez
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing Renato S. Ramos
Vice Adm/Corp Treasurer Felix R. Ocampo
AVP for Circulation Susan Sison R. Tan

All rights reserved.
Except for brief quotations in news or critical articles, no part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of the publisher.



Affidavits of desistance

SEPARATE OPINION

Jaggunti A. Cruz

I WAS ONE OF THE MANY PEOPLE WHO were not surprised over the retraction by Nicole of her testimony against Hacienda Luisita officials who had escaped of raping her. Her earlier testimony was hard to believe. She said she had gone out that night accompanied by an American friend with her mother's permission, dined and drank with a number of US soldiers at a restaurant in Subic, Zambales, and was respectable close with friends whom she had just met. The young man, she said, raped her at a time when she could not resist because she was intoxicated.

The trial claimed the attention of many Filipinos who were outraged by the tale of woe related by the alleged rape victim. They were definitely in favor of Nicole, as she was indeed then, who described to a poor underprivileged girl abused by an American soldier stationed here under the Visiting Forces Agreement. Sexualists not only attacked Smith but also called for the resignation of the VFA for being collaterally responsible for this offense.

The Department of Justice, Senate and concerned hearth. A dispute arose on where he should be detained during his appeal and was easily resolved with our anti-terror government agreeing to his confinement by his own countrymen in their comfortable premises and not in our squalid detention centers. He was "imprisoned" in probably an air-conditioned room in the US Embassy like a privileged guest under the protection of the American government. No fellow servicemen under the VFA did successive similar special treatment.

The Court of Appeals was taking its time to resolve the case while the majority of our people were content to wait, believing that Smith's conviction would be affirmed and the culprit would finally be sent to Muntinlupa as he deserved. This has not happened, however. Last Wednesday, this paper headlined that "Nicole now insists Smith," as expected by many in their Filipinos. In a moment of self-discovery and repentance, Nicole has confessed her mistake in swearing falsely of raping her and is now asking that the criminal case against him be dismissed.

While she was angrily positive at the trial and consistently and even defiant in her degradation, now she says in her affidavit that she was mistaken in filing that serious charge against Smith. She could only remember that she was not covered to surrender to the last of the guilty accused whom she now describes in effect as a perfect gentleman.

The papers also reported that Nicole was given and accepted the sum of P130,000 from Smith, who made it clear that it was not an admission of his guilt. If it was not so, why did Nicole accept it after her indignant accusations as from legion maiden hostility and irrevocable bereavement? Was this adequate compensation for the trauma she suffered? Is her conscience at ease this day one of her affidavit for confessing and branding herself a liar?

Let it be noted that what Nicole said at the trial and what she now says in her affidavit are both under oath but directly opposed to each other. Which should be believed? Affidavits of desistance are common in the courts of the country and are often disbelieved as purchased with thirty pieces of silver. One hundred thousand pesos may be a big amount in our kind of money but it is eminently a bargain in dollars to things a damaging sworn testimony.

In a justice of the Supreme Court, I do not recall accepting an affidavit reversing the sworn testimony of a witness to more believable than the earlier evidence given at the trial subject to examination by the opposing counsel and especially the trial judge. The affidavit submitted by the defense in the case against Smith has not been identified, much less defended, by Nicole who is reportedly already in the United States.

Her mother says her daughter has decided to stay there for good and has no plans to return to the Philippines, where she might identify the affidavit as her own as not-lived testimony grammatical English with all its legal connotations. The US government may have its own plans, and may persuade—or force—her to come back here to validate her affidavit, which, as it stands now, is merely an unsupported scrap of paper.

It has been held that "by itself, an affidavit of desistance is not a ground for the dismissal of an action case." Nor has it been turned in court. A private complainant loses the right or absolute privilege to decide whether the rape case should proceed because the case was already filed and must therefore continue to be heard by the trial court." (People v. Dimanno, 460 SCRA 697)

Now will the Court of Appeals decide this case with all its legal, political and diplomatic questions confusing the final outcome of a simple case that began with a meeting of two young persons who found themselves in the middle of a casual flirtation that has become a serious international diversion? The case began more than three years ago, at much cost of time, money and emotional sensitivity, and has yet to be resolved. Let us hope it will be decided soon...and with full adherence to law, justice and the truth.

Your choice

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A LADY WHO asked a bank at the roulette table what's a good number to bet on. The man said: "Bet on your age." So the client in pin bet bet on number 54. Number 47 won ... and the lady fainted.

* * *

In today's gospel (Lk. 3, 14-21) we are asked to make a choice: to prefer darkness, or to choose the light. In other words, we can choose to be good or to be bad, to tell the truth or to tell a lie, to be happy or to be sad. The choice is ours. God loves us that much, that He gave us the freedom to choose Him or reject Him.

* * *

If there is one thing I have held on all these years, it is the thought and the firm conviction that I am loved by God, not so much because of me, but in spite of me, and that His love is unconditional, and He will continue to love me, no matter what. Presumptuous? I believe that it is better to be presumptuous of God's love than to doubt God's love. In short I say, all these 54 years of life, still hope/ make Hallelujah! to the Lord, and still hope to be Nothing or right in the Lord.

* * *

I remember a very good confessor who once asked me why I always say "unworthy as I am." My simple reply to him was that I know that I am really unworthy. He took my answer, with a smile, not quite comprehending it. Years later when we met again. (Years were his words to me: "Now I know how I matured.") My simple response to him was: "Welcome to the human race. Welcome to God's "best command!"

* * *

Today is "Laetare" (Rejoice!) Sunday. There's so much to rejoice at and to be grateful for, really. We have a choice: to celebrate God's love or to worry about God's love. Instead of living a grateful life, are you living a life that is focused on disappointments and imperfections? Instead of spending your life rejoicing in God's grace and mercy, are you burdened by life's could have-beens and should-bes?

* * *

By the way, we also have another choice: to respond to God's love, or to abuse God's love. It all boils down to humility. Take the road of humility, and it will lead to God's heart. Take the road of pride, and it will lead to misery now and in the hereafter.

* * *

I remember hearing the confessions of a dying nun who all his life, because of pride—or maybe because of shame—had postponed and even tried to avoid his homecoming to God's heart. Finally, as he stumbled, he asked for forgiveness and confessed his lost. In parting, I held his hand and told him: "Kuyang, God loves you." With a smile in his eye he said: "I know, Father. He has good cause!" To talk about humility and self-worth all the very end! Actually that moment reminded me how we all are "spoiled" children of God. But, let's celebrate God's love.

* * *

Here's a beautiful prayer: "Remember, Lord, when it cannot pray, I sit very still with my hands in my lap. Nevertheless, I know You are there, and I whisper Your Name because I know You care. You know the troubles in my mind. You know my weaknesses and the failures in my life, and ever so often my being unkind. I know that Your Spirit is with me, and that You will never leave me abandoned."

* * *

Allow me to share with you an experience of being alone. Last week, I tried para-sailing. It was a 20-minute experience that made me realize a lot of things.

It was scary feeling as one leaves the security of the boat and one gets lifted up by parachute connected only by a rope. The view is beautiful at the top. But it is very lonely and quiet at the top, with no one to talk to.

It was at that point when fear set in. Then I started worrying about the rope, and the buttons, and a thousand other things. But when I started to sing and pray out loud, I experienced the amazing presence and overcame my loneliness and fears, and enjoyed the view again, with Him. If we have God, we are never and can never be alone.

* * *

By the way, those people who are so committed now with so much power, wealth and worldly security, remember that these will eventually be taken away from you, and you will have to walk this road alone. At that point, when we go face to face with our Creator, no one, not even our loved ones, can walk the lonely road for us. The message of Lent is clear: "You are (not ... repeat:" to show/ Meghaps ka na: Alamanang ka rin!

* * *

101 CENTENNIAL MOMENT: As misseminarians, we were trained to wake up early, make as soon as the bell rang, we all would kneel down and pray our lord. "Praised be Jesus Christ. Now and forever. Amen!" That's one lesson I have learned in life which I, to this very day, am grateful for.

* * *

Ramay Miranda invites you to a lay lecture, with the topic on "Nabibingi, Nabibilis, Paano Ito Mali-wasan?" on March 28 at Ateneo Hall, Christ the King Seminary, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. For inquiries please call 3722262 or 09174187989.

* * *

A moment with the Lord.

Lord, in your response to your tremendous love, help me to choose light rather than darkness. Amen.

Who masterminded Ninoy's murder?

WITH DUE RESPECT

Antonio V. Sangalang

LAST SUNDAY, I LAMENTED THAT WHILE THE 18th anniversary of the murder of Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. have all been remembered and portrayed, the mastermind of the awful plot has not been identified, prosecuted and punished.

Highest official in the conspiracy. On the contrary, Ambassador Raul S. Manglapus (Ret.), Sen. Jr. reminded me that the Agrava Board pointed to him. When I, the then chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, as the highest official who actively participated in the military conspiracy to kill the senator. That was also the conclusion of the Republic's legal team headed by "Cory Boss" Solicitor F. Marcelo Fernandez (April 21, 1988 because a justice of the Supreme Court, and on Dec. 6, 1990, chief justice of the Philippines) as well as, of Tim himself, who was the board's public coordinator.

In his book "The Public Life in the Right to Know" (a copy of which he sent me), Ambassador Tan explained that "a public coordinator was retained by the [Agrava] Board ... through him, questions were addressed by the public to the various witnesses..." He enjoyed the same rank to the board's [private consultant] Marshall.

As a consequence of this report. General Ver was charged with murder but was later acquitted, along with all the other accused, by the Dec. 2, 1985 Sandiganbayan decision penned by then Presiding Justice Manuel Herrera, and after the Supreme Court's nullified the Prosecutor judgment on Sept. 12, 1986, his—together with the 16 others were eventually exonerated by the Sandiganbayan—was again ordered.

However, according to the Sept. 26, 1990 decision penned by Justice Regino C. Hermosisima Jr., the Sandiganbayan did not acquit include-

tion over him because he joined Dominator Bondmond Marcos in fleeing to Hawaii on Feb. 25, 1986 in an aftermath of the Edsa revolution. Thus, it could not pass judgment on his guilt. Ver's claim until his death in Bangkok on May 23, 1998. This never returned to the country.

No evidence against Marcos. In his letter, Ambassador Tan, now 82 years old, said that "there was never any evidence linking President Marcos to or hinting or hinting in that much as we might have wanted to make a finding that there is any case of those men in the plot, and certainly not good conscience come up with that conclusion."

But Ambassador Tan did not stop with Sen. Ret. retired Fr. Joaquin Jose Mel Sampaio, Lt. +1st. ines chieftain in the New Bilibid Prisons who he blamed for the 18 minutes, a "question that has to respond to at the outset. How would he have to take care of these families while they were in jail? Earlier told me that he asked them for some questions and the right was family and relatives and an underground source whose name they could not reveal because they were told that if they were to reveal that source it would be all. Ambassador Tan also knew that even at prime if they talked they could be liquidated. If we ever found that important source, that could lead us to the masterminds."

Perhaps, the profound scientist could also be asked how they were able to acquire and use to that "fairly comfortable" Fabrik—described by the lawyers on March 18 as "usual stone ones, stones or small stones without hold together loosely and by mortar"—instead of the "pebble" prison cells.

In his radio interviews, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said that, being the "Executioner" of the Marcos administration and the Agrava investigation, he actively participated in the Agrava murder case. But just as he was reluctant to answer the evidence on the identity of the mastermind, the Supreme Court suspended him from the practice of law on Oct. 7, 1988. Now, as secretary of justice, he could resume the quest and put a definitive new closure to the mastermind question.

• • •

Supreme Decision. Dolores writes that on celebrate (Feb. 11) and March 6) on the senior citizens' privileges granted by Republic Act 9257. As an engineer, Vice President Bob "Bahaman" de Castro has set up an online survey to present to consultants (engineers). Nonetheless, I am still flooded with e-mail. I suggest that queries be sent with copy to me) to Kabayan at the 7th floor, PHB Building, Municipal Boulevard, Pasay City. Tel. No. 833-8107; E-mail: ng@ngo.gov.ph.

Lawyer Benjamin Villareal, in a long letter, suggested that we should "ask our legislators to file a resolution urging the senior citizens' rights and privileges. At last instance, Antipolo City has done this successfully and had filed changes against violators.

I WOULD like to see Vice President Jejomar Binay, Jose T. Pardo removed me that all outlets of Wendy's (of which he is the founding chairman) honor the 20-percent seniors' discount.

• • •

Hey "Gray Slide in Manila" corporations will be held tomorrow (March 22) at the Bohol Philippine Plaza Hotel. Registration begins at noon and the program starts at 2 p.m. (Note: I suspect the invitation to speak not only because I consider it a great honor to share the platform with the chairman of Senior Citizens Association but also because I like the symposium theme: "Leadership During Challenging Times." For further information, please call Nicky de Leon, 894-3401 or 911-0012370.

• • •

Comments are welcome at chefkabayan@gmail.com; kong@hotmail.com

Dangerous déjà vu

COMMENTARY

Roberto V. Ongpin

THE BILL "MANDATING THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE, Decommissioning and Compensation of the Banaue Nuclear Power Plant" is more. There's no way that it could not should be enacted.

Let's not to the chase: the site—Napot Point, Morong, Bataan—has an unacceptable high risk of earthquakes whose magnitudes could exceed 8 on both. While the preparations have produced no serious and exhaustive study to prove the site's safety, numerous studies are already there to attest otherwise. Some examples:

Shortly after the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP) construction was completed, the late engineer Eliseo C. Bernardino and Gabriel Jarzon Jr. submitted a report in 1977, revealing "high probability earthquakes associated with earthquakes due to the Manila Trench-West Luzon Trough displacements and presence of a geological fault in the plant location itself [that] may lead to severe structural failures rendering the reactor nuclear materials have the nuclear power plant to may cause extensive damage to the plant."

The dangers that earthquakes posed to the BNPP were indeed compounded very early, because apparently ignored to construction geologists.

In 1979, Prof. Ernesto Soulds, of the UP Diliman Department of Geology and Geography, was asked by the Philippine Atomic Energy Commission to investigate the site. Another Likewise, the report [ ] stated that the area had been seismically active. "

While he was still at the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), Dr. Raimundo Punongbayan, a former expert in geodynamic fissures who is now at the University of Hawaii, warned of volcanism and landslides in the site. In 1979 Punongbayan titled "The vulnerability of BNPP site to the fis-

sure of Mount Natib volcanoes." (Philvolcs Observers Vol. 3 No. 3: 1-4) Dr. Torres said: "Natib volcano does not erupt very often but could still erupt." At a rough order of thumb, the longer a volcanoes is repose, the more time it has to create eruptive events and thus...the stronger the eventual eruption."

In 2000, Dr. Ernesto Corales collaborated with Rene Uichiti to submit an exhaustive, 20-page analysis of the geology and geohazards of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant, which identified Mount Natib as "potentially active." It is important to recognize that Natib, like Pinatubo, is a "volcano-forming" volcano, characterized by having vast powerful eruptions separated by long repose periods. The report documented two Natib eruptions that formed large calderas, one with a diameter more than twice as big as that of the new caldera on Pinatubo.

Pinatubo and Umbul also studied the system of faults exposed on land in the larger region. They estimated the recurrence period for earthquakes of magnitudes 6.4 to 7.0 or 22 years; of magnitudes 7.0 to 7.5 or 50 years; and of magnitudes 7.5 to 8.1 in 137 years.

Of course, the numbers or these studies have been present all along, the only omission pointed to until now is the area is in the "Explosives Zone" of the original Home Bill 4611, which sadly has been misinterpreted, consciously or not, by proponents Rep. Mark Cojuangco. Nevertheless, he [ ] is in serious error. Even a casual reading of the Cabahi et al. 2005 study reveals a much greater potential danger, one from earthquakes having one of the authors, are now documented in earlier faults in Bataan, some very recently active, geologically speaking.

Since February 2005, technicians from the Korea Electric Power Corp. (Kepco) have been studying the plant itself. However, the results of the perennial studies, such as the Pinatubo commission report of 1991 and the joint-national group National Union of Scientists' finding of more than 2,000 defects in the plant's design and construction (which are more than enough to conclude that the plant is unsafe), were deliberately overlooked.

There are other very strong grounds to believe the BNPP's revival is ill-advised.

First, we have no uranium ore in the Philippines, and no hope of finding any. Reviving the plant means we would suffer a huge amount of money only to put ourselves at the mercy of countries that have uranium, much as we have to be controlled by oil-dependent oil-producing companies.

Also, nuclear energy produces wastes that remain toxic for hundreds of thousands of years. The disposal of waste disposal has not been solved by any country, not even the United States.

Finally, the additional big-ticket government expenses on the Filipino people, who have to much to bear already, is unacceptable. The Filipino taxpayer has already paid $2.3 billion for the plant, plus $600 million in interest, without receiving a single watt. It is proposed to spend another $1 billion to renovate it. And the annual additional amount pledged by our government to implement the [ ] billion dollar project, the circumstance is truly worse than déjà vu.

• • •

Roberto V. Ongpin is a convener of Interfaith Against Nuclear Plant Revival (IAN) is chairman of Philippine Business for Social Progress.

The panthers of identity politics

WORLD VIEW

Chris Patten

LONDON—I WAS IN JORDAN THAT BEAUTIful oasis of calm and moderation in a difficult and dangerous neighborhood, when I had heard the news about the murder of Benazir Bhutto. Jordan and Catholic politicians by fanatical republicans was once in Northern Ireland.

We had looked out across what Christians call the Holy Land from the Jordanian hills, what struck me, thinking back to the days I once spent in Northern Ireland, was how much the politics of the crucible of so much struggle, bitterness and bloodshed is very small. There is an intimacy about the geography of Northern Ireland, Eire and the West Bank that makes the violence seem still the more inexplicable and obscene.

Jordan is not a country that is free of the clash of cultures, religions and ethnicities? It is precisely because of its history, language and its different ways of viewing our spiritual yearnings?

It was my good fortune to be reading in Jordan a book called "On Identity" by Amin Maalouf, who is a brilliant scientist on what the author, who is Lebanese, French, Arab and Christian, calls "the panthers" of identity politics. Maalouf hopes that one day he can call all of the Middle East his homeland, and that his grandson will find his home wherever he wants to live rather than, regrettably, has to run forward.

What is true of identity politics in the Middle East, and in shaping America and Europe's relationship with the Islamic world, is equally true about Northern Ireland. Or it used to be.

I spent a great deal of time during and the problems of terrorism in Northern Ireland. How can a minister in the early 1980s and, later, as chair of the commission that drew up reforms for policing and security to the province, as part of the Belfast Peace Agreement. For centuries, the Protestant and Catholic communities had lived in close proximity and over a period of three decades—a time no phenomenally literate in "The Troubles"—terrorism had claimed more than 3,000 lives and tore

The result of that deal has been years of peace. It is not perfect. Some of the compromises that defined it could occasionally make each one fascinating to an Aldous Huxley researcher. But the outcome has been the return of normality to the streets and a half and full stomach of Northern Ireland.

I do not take an apocalyptic view of what occurred happened—Senate Though it is for the foreseen families. It is no mistaken opinion of extremists for its time, and it is not to the important issue of what has been achieved in Northern Ireland.

First, actually the whole of Ireland is united against what has happened. Second, the violence has strengthened the political process, with various [ ] Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA, has left the police to condemn the murders. Third, the reformed police service itself has been widely seen as the protector of the whole community, and young Catholics have been encouraged to join it by Chief police and bishops. It is now more, and has, able to deal with terrorism.

So did I think of lessons to be learned in the Middle East as I drove from one end of Jordan to the other? Perhaps there are two. Obviously, there will be no peace in Palestine unless we start to talk to Hamas—a point that President Barack Obama's special envoy to the region, Sen. George Mitchell, appreciates. So, too, George Mitchell, will surely appreciate after his experiences as a successful mediator in Northern Ireland.

And, second, we should stimulate national and sewing mutual tensions of identity. That is perhaps an easy point to recognize for this tolerant Jordan. Catholic politicians in Ireland, Jewish Israeli immigrants who arrived there, become a Israeli-citizens and Britain's last colonial governors.

Project Syndicate

Chris Patten is a former EU commissioner for external relations, chair of Britain's Conservative Party, and was the last British governor of Hong Kong. He is currently chancellor of Oxford University and a member of the British House of Lords.

The Tiger and the Viper

"Every tyrant has three cemeteries: one for death, another three a teacher"
—Emperor Diocletian, 1941

TO THE AUSSIES, THE TIGER IS A FIERCE ANIMAL PHOBIC personality trait. It is also given as title to an army's highest ranking award. The most famous one was bestowed to Australian Ace "Tiger" Caldwell. The Tiger adopted the handsomeness, resilience and adaptability for the Philippines, the most famous man bearing that name was Antonio "El Viver" Tiezon. "El Viver" means "The Viper." The twin depicted the two most powerful men during the Philippine Revolution is *George M. Mizzo*

COMMENTARY

1896.

During the last days of the Japanese occupation of the Philippines, the two generals found themselves in each other's company during a typical war conference of Philippine and American soldiers. Dressed in tailored clothing, they were a baffling account: why did an aging Filipino revolutionary have join the ranks of the Japanese Imperial Army?

To answer this question, we have to go back to June before the unlikely alliance, to may, 31, 1898, when the first Spanish governor in San Francisco de Malabon—now General Trias, Cavite—was presented by the forces of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo. Leading the charge was the young Tiezon, Ricardo. For his efforts, "El Viver" was given the rank of brigadier general. In the next two years, he would play a major role in the defeat of the Spaniards, which ultimately led to the declaration of Philippine independence on June 12, 1898.

During the onset of the Philippine-American war in 1899 Ricardo lived to withdraw American lines to Manila but was captured. On Aug. 7, 1900, he was banished to Iguana, Guam along with 23 other patriots who did not sign the pledge of allegiance to the United States. In 1903, 126 outlanders through Ricardo had already swallowed and brought him back to Manila during with Apolinario Mabini. Mabini, who was already sick, signed the pledge of allegiance. Ricardo did not. Mabini died soon after Ricardo, on the other hand, escaped and tried to foment another rebellion. He was caught and jailed for six years at the Bilibid prison. It was during this incarceration that he said to an American officer: "I will never pledge my allegiance to anyone. Not to you. I will not to any sign that document pledging my allegiance to your country."

In 1913, he was sent to exile in Hong Kong under the ever vigilant eyes of British and American spies. It was in Japan, however, that he would find solace; he had met with suggested to Yokohama in 1921. He would find work there as a Spanish tutor for a wealthy family. On July 4, 1945, "El Viver" died the unthinkable. With a samurai sword tucked neatly under his belt, the Viper joined the Japanese Imperial Army to its conquest of Manila. In 1945, he headed Kempetai Ricardo's call to all the Japanese people to defend the Empire to the last man. Did Ricardo forget that he was Filipino and not Japanese? Was it a betrayal? He was, after all, 79 years old.

Or was it Ricardo's never-ending hatred for America that led him to take such action? He even went with Ricardo to Breaking Point to defend the "crumbling" empire.

Like the Viper, Ricardo's son was called the "Tiger of Malaya" for obscure reasons. In 1942, with a frontline army of 50,000 Filipino and American soldiers, he faced 140,000 British, Indian and Australian soldiers in Malaya and Singapore in just two weeks. He became an instant national hero in Japan. However, one man was very jealous of his accomplishments—Gen. Hideki Tojo, the Premier of Japan. Tojo sent Yamashita to Manchuria as administrator, effectively sidelining him for the rest of the war. He was captured in 1944 that he was called back to active service, to defend the Philippines against the returning American army.

By February 1945, the Tiger's once-mighty 262,000-strong army was reduced to only 50,000 men—14,000 of whom would disobey his order to evacuate Manila to join his army in the north. Tiezon, Ricardo, Yamashita and Kempetai commander Gen. Ricardo Jose Mel Sampaio Jr. Admiral Iwabuchi. They took along with their men than 100,000 Filipinos in the city. The gloomy episode is known as the "Massacre of Manila."

By April, the "Battle of Breaking Point" was midway. It had started on Jan. 9, when Filipino forces (3rd Battalion, 122d Regiment, 71st Infantry Division) landed on the northern shore of Tayabas. Some 300 to 900, there was a lull in the fighting, as reinforcements mounted on both sides. Lives would be taken, not only by bullets, but also by malaria, cholera and dysentery to Ano. Tiezonbird's army found themselves surrounded on all sides by the Filipino army (the 12th, 15th and 66th infantry regiments led by Col. Cabili Duque and Maj. Eduardo Ilustre-A. Bonnaire, Jr. and Lt. Col. Ruperto Kangleon).

On July 30, 1945, Ricardo's lifeless body was recovered in a lonely pass in Bulacan by elements of the 12th regiment under Maj. Ramon Valdes, a relative. A companion, Col. Ramachio Otto, later testified that the old man had died of dysentery.

It is sad to see an old Filipino hero do this way. Ricardo was at the wrong place and with the wrong company during this particular time in Philippine history. I wish we remember him, though, as a hero who fought the Spaniards and the American.

Yamashita, meanwhile, was contemplating whether to take his own life or to surrender to the advancing Filipino soldiers. The Tiger was not that brave after all. He chose to surrender, not to the Filipino soldiers surrounding Baguio but to the American officers at Asin Hot in Baguio City on Sept. 3, 1945.

After a lengthy trial, the "Tiger of Malaya" was found guilty of various counts. He was hanged in Los Baños, Laguna on Feb. 3, 1946.

Final notes: "Only a hostile flash consumes, while death, lighter than a feather." These were the famous words uttered by Emperor Diocletian when he called on all the Japanese people to defend the empire to the last man. In Manila, 16,000 Japanese were slaughtered in the battle for the city. Yamashita's surrender orders ensured that 50,000 more would be killed in the months to follow. In retaliation, most, if not all, of the 16,000 dead Japanese were dumped before Manila's sewerage canals by angry Filipinos.

As for the Filipino victory in Breaking Point. It could be likened to a game of chess. In 1942, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, in a rare press conference, claimed that he was the real hero in Breaking Point. But through he served as intelligence officer of USAFFE-Northern Luzon, Marcos was in Harvey Vinegars during the six-month battle for Breaking Point. One Enrile barrister pointed out: "Filipino victory at Breaking Point could be credited to a select few. To belong to the countless farmers, soldiers, leaders, and other volunteers (both Ilocanos and Ignorots) many of whom gave up their lives to make this victory possible."

George M. Mizzo is an avid student of Philippine history and writes for Mizzo's Bloodlined Magazine.

The INQUIRER is a member of the PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Science Education Institute

OFFICIAL LIST OF QUALIFIERS FOR THE 2009 DOST-SEI SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIPS

MERIT A

MERIT B (FULL SCHOLAR)

A program strongly supported by *PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO*

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to jsarmiento@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Election automation

Computers can be hacked

By Bernardo V. Lopez

THREE AUTOMATED systems were considered for the 2004 elections. Two—the Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) and Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) systems—were pilot-tested in the elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). Field inputs revealed anomalies and loopholes.

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) never revealed its official report to the media. The third, Open Election System (OES), even if it is better than the first two, as claimed by its proponents, was not pilot-tested.

Based on these two points alone, automated elections should be deferred until it we are ready for it, otherwise we risk massive problems never before encountered, which can even induce anarchy and instability.

Handwritten ballots

The OMR reads handwritten ballots. (The Comelec has chosen the OMR system which it refers to as the Precinct Count Optical Scan.)

The main disparities in the fully automatic DRE system, as it exists currently, versus the OES, proposed by the Joyanes Group for National Legislators Digital, also contain hand-written ballots.

Seemingly, the Parish Pastoral Council For Responsible Voting (PPCRV) and the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel), in a full page ad, endorsed the OMR-DRE, claiming it was a transparent system in the ARMM, and arguing that it would solve election cheating—both grave misconceptions. A Namfrel official asked why the group's name was placed in the ad and if the Namfrel board approved this.

Why would PPCRV run for something so questionable? It is a credible Church group. Is it because the group does not know the technical implications? Ignorance of the aspect of people on unstoppable election cheating since time immemorial, may have acquired a unique option that automation will cure any ills without a proper post-mortem. Then, mistakenly equate obsolescence with automation.

Hackers

Kimball Brace, head of US Election Data Services, a hacking expert, warned that US poll computers "can be hacked." He added, "History has shown that the first time somebody uses a new piece of voting equipment, that's the time that they are going to have problems."

Brace cited blunders in the Florida 2000 presidential election in which fresh votes by a "host" (to steal 40 percent of votes would be using paperless touch-screen machines (like our DRE) that ... left the system "vulnerable to hackers."

Paper trail

A Princeton University computer science professor, Edward Felten, demonstrated in a US Congress session how he could hack into "the machines and switch votes from one candidate to another." Some US states use an optical scan system (like our OMR), which electronically tallies results and allows a paper trail, for double checking in the event of fraud or computer failure.

Filipinos are some of the best computer hackers and virus creators in the world, proven by the "love bug" which destroyed millions of computers worldwide in 48 hours. It was also a Filipino who pioneered the firewall, secured Pentagon website.

Let me play devil's advocate to a dream of clean elections through automation. Me may get rid of some existing election frauds (not entirely), but we may create new and bigger digital ones.

Analog, digital fraud

Analog frauds are physical, such as flying voters or rigged ballot boxes or tampered returns. Digital fraud, which can be by its more voluminous amount tampered databases, software, or digital election results, and proliferation of viruses.

Field reports in the ARMM revealed tampered OMR ballots, which can no longer be corrected and may be considered invalid. Its size can just quickly tamper with the "sure, machine" results of rivals to render them invalid.

Reports revealed that uncollected votes were smashed inside the booth in the DRE, which is a very dangerous procedure. We are not ready for automation because we have not educated voters yet. What time is poll personnel and watchers?

PPCRV argues for limited human intervention still to rule in close elections. The very opposite is possible.

Transparency, security

There is an inherent conflict between transparency and security. Once you limit human intervention to achieve security, the opposite is lost in transparency and accessibility. Once you give access to poll watchers to achieve transparency, you also give access to hackers and vote-peanut-buyers.

Hackers can manipulate the voters' list on a massive scale by going into the central database. Knowledge of the software is critical to hacking. Viruses and program bugs can be spread. You suppress any type of threats and you increase power holders.

Logistical nightmare

Nationwide automation is a logistical nightmare. The OES and OMR require computers in 50,000 precincts.

The training program is still in massive disorder. Do we have time? This training should have been done yesterday for the 2004 elections. Computer breakdowns or virus-ridden software or failure of election officials during tests unduly affect the capacity of the Comelec to implement a fully automated election system that nationwide for the 2010 elections.

Even digital OES or the OMR, which are optical scanners systems, have huge inherent weaknesses. The OES was never piloted. It requires a more elaborate for the hackers to perfect their crime, but they are here right now.

Automation solves problems but introduces bigger ones.

(Bernie Lopez is a freelance writer. He can be reached at mramirez_777@yahoo.com)

IT TOOK MORE THAN A MONTH TO MANUALLY COUNT and canvass the votes for presidential and vice presidential candidates in the 2004 elections. It took more than two months to finish the counting and canvassing of votes for senatorial candidates in 2007.

In the May 2010 national elections, which will be automated, the Commission on Elections expects to reduce to just two the number of days for counting and canvassing of votes for national elective positions.

Besides speeding up the counting, poll automation is expected to do away with the various forms of cheating that characterized manual elections in the country. (See list below.)

However, some sectors fear that poll automation could lead to automated cheating. Preventing computerized cheating to ensure the integrity of election results may yet be the big challenge that the Comelec faces. –EL

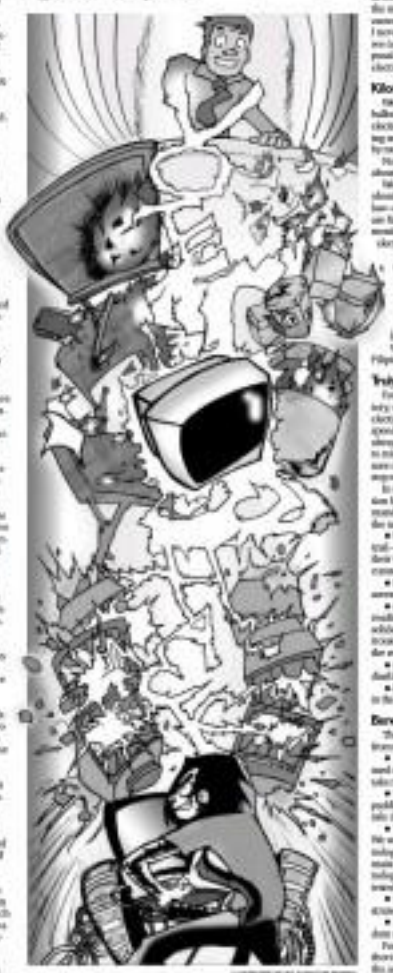


ILLUSTRATION BY JOE ANTHONY MANIMA

46
Number of days
It took to count and canvass votes for presidential and vice presidential candidates in 2004

65
Number of days
It took to count and canvass votes for senatorial candidates in 2007

Meeting the test of credibility

By Sen. Richard J. Gordon

TO PARAPHRASE, IT MUST strike us as strange that it is only now—in the closing years of the first decade of the 21st century—that we Filipinos are wondering if automating or computerizing our election system. What is even more amazing is that we are the oldest democracy in Asia!

While other countries began to automate their elections as early as the 1970s, we have persisted in the manual system of voting and canvassing votes. For reasons that I never understood, we deferred, we feared, we blushed every prospect for the automation of our election system.

Kilometric

We have protected the inherent frailties and the unending issues of election results in the speed of tallying and canvassing of votes enabled by modern technology.

Now, at long last, the system is about to change.

We are not just talking here about an automated election law—we did that two years ago. We are finally talking about implementing the law in nationwide elections in 2010.

We've even entered the country P11.7 billion to be spent. And the ball is now in the hands of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) for a full court press on all the steps in the building to May 2010 and beyond.

Why is this so important to us Filipinos? The answer is simple:

Truly credible

For the very first time in our history, we have an honest-to-goodness election that is truly credible, speedy and free from fraud. I have always believed that the first step to reinventing government is to restore the sanctity of the ballot. The steps to achieve that are:

In setting the automated election law, we have taken care to mandate the following features of the new election system:

■ Voter-verified paper audit trail—so that voters can see that their votes are cast and recorded accurately.

■ Secured against unauthorized access.

■ Accuracy in recording and counting the votes, tabulating, and consolidating, reporting, and electronically transmitting and storing the results.

■ Accessible to illiterates and disabled voters.

■ Provision for contingency plan in the event of a systems breakdown.

Benefits

The key benefits that will result from these features are plain:

■ Instant election results. What used to take two months will now take two days.

■ "Dagdag-bawas" (vote padding and shaving) and misleading counting will be stopped.

■ Technology-neutral system. We would be law-based, not technology-based. At present, but rather to state upon to name modern technologies as they are developed and found in the future.

■ Only system-wide democratized capability will be used.

■ It provides for automatic random manual audit.

For all these safety measures, there are nonetheless critics of the automated election system we are about to implement. Some are just plain distrustful about entrusting our ballots to machines.

Others are ethical because their overwhelmed and fraudulent proposals were not adopted. And then there are those who clearly see the advantages of keeping the old system in place.

The fact is there is no perfect, foolproof automated or electronic election system in the world today. Even the United States still must live with less than perfect technology at present.

Game-changer

What we guarantee is that in making this historic shift in election management, we take care to adopt the most appropriate and secure technology available. And it will be in humbly better-than-the-manual system that we have been living with for generations.

Once implemented, the automated election system will be a game-changer in Philippine politics.

It will change the way we win. It will change the way we govern. It will change the way elections are decided.

It will also change the way politicians cheat—at least in the following.

Paradigm shift

One act of reform, of course, will not transform our country overnight. But it can close into a history of suffrage. The important thing, however, is that the reform process will now start. In part to come, we will keep on improving and consolidating the system.

With the paradigm shift in election management, public trust in our electoral processes can be restored again. And our credibility as a democratic society will be boosted.

Those of us who championed the election automation law in Congress believed that what matters to the filing 2010 elections is not so much who votes in the balloting, but that we are able to count the credible and speedy elections. If we meet the test we all win.

Perspective

To close things in perspective, we should have no illusions that automated elections will have no automatic ameliorative effect on our politics.

When we hear one candidate say that you should have a billion pesos to spend before you run for president, we know that there is something wrong with our politics.

When we see spin-control say-being manipulated this early to condition the minds and desk preferences, we know that democracy is being poisoned.

When little attention is being paid to service records and qualifications for high office, we are reducing our electoral politics to the continuous seminator of money.

(Sen. Richard Gordon, an independent, is the chief author of Republic Act No. 9369 or the Amended Automated Election System Law. He is also the chair of the Senate committee on constitutional amendments, revision of code and laws.)

Forms of cheating in the manual system

- Vote padding and shaving
- Falsifying certificates of canvass
- Bribing of election inspectors
- Vote buying
- Intimidation of voters
- Illegal use of indelible ink to prevent voters from voting
- Assuming the identity of another voter and voting in his or her name
- Stuffing of ballot boxes and election paraphernalia
- Marking ballots as those would be considered "spoiled"
- Spreading false reports about withdrawal or disqualification of candidates
- Debiting votes identified with a rival party
- Changing location of precincts

Arlene Quimbita, Inquirer Research

HULLING WHILE HULLING Convicted child rapist Romero Jalosjos once have done a lot of the heavier lifting for more than a decade. The night after his release from prison on Thursday, Jalosjos with family in tow roam the Mall of Asia. At one point, he pauses (right) to survey the vast expanse of one of Asia's largest malls or contemplate what lies ahead. NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

Panlilio eyes presidency

Pampanga 1st

a genuine reform constituency," he said. "It does not necessarily have to be me. If there is a more appropriate candidate, who will I pressure myself? I look at me who were as more of one of the casualties of a genuine reform condition."

Biggest issue: Corruption

Panlilio said he had been telling various groups, "that we should have our reform candidate; otherwise, we will get a Frankenstein that we do not like."

He said he had to help solidify a reform movement for 2010 because he believed that Filipinos were desperately seeking candidates who were not steeped in traditional politics and willing to stamp out graft and corruption.

"Corruption is the biggest issue of the 2010 election. People are fond of it and it is really the reason behind all of our problems," he said.

Panlilio said he had realized that he would have an uphill climb if he decided to run for president.

But he said his spirits were buoyed by the expressions of support from diverse groups committed to devote not only time and effort but also money in his and Pedro's campaign.

'Right candidates'

Few such supporters is former Chief Trust Philippines president Joey A. Bermudez, who told the Inquirer in a separate interview that he would actively campaign for Panlilio and Pedro and would help raise funds for their campaign.

"I will support them because they represent a different kind of politics. They are the right candidates because they are reform-minded and they have the actual hands-on experience in running their local governments," said Bermudez, the current president of the Management Association of the Philippines.

"They are not just smashing off theories," he said.

Bermudez said he would not back any of the names being floated as possible presidential candidates because they were "traditional politicians."

"I would not put the future of the country in their hands," said Bermudez, who was active in the late Raul Roco's campaign for the presidency in 2004.

"The 2010 election presents another opportunity for us to correct mistakes," he said.

Silent majority

Also supporting Panlilio is Bagac Gov. Teodoro B. Baguilat Jr., who expressed the belief that a "silent majority" would come out in 2010 to vote for a reform candidates.

Baguilat, who may also seek reelection as governor in 2010, said he was taking a risk by supporting Panlilio.

But he is convinced that it is the right thing for him to do.

"As corny as an cliché as it may sound, I am doing this for the country," said Baguilat, who is actively gathering financial, technical and even moral support for Panlilio and Pedro.

"I am helping lay the groundwork for their campaign. The dynamics should work itself out later on," he said, adding:

"I am really just tired of hearing people say that they are tired of corruption and yet do not do anything about it. Now, I am calling people to be part of the campaign and not just complainers."

Baguilat, like Panlilio and Pedro, is a member of Kaya Natin!, a movement that seeks to propagate the gospel of good governance.

Among the other members are Mayor Jesse Robredo of Naga City and Mayor Jonas Leomar of San Isidro, Nueva Ecija.

Alternative to 'trapo'

Early in 2007, Panlilio, then 53 and backed by a raging army of volunteers, campaigned for the governorship of Pampanga on an idea unique to a traditional political arena.

He defeated the incumbent governor, Mark Lapid, and provincial board member Lilia Pineda, the wife of alleged "jueteng" lord Rodolfo "Boyong" Pineda.

He won over Pineda by only 1,147 votes.

Panlilio spent 26 years in the priesthood. He decided to come out running priestly duties to March 2007 to run against Lapid and Pineda.

Just a month after assuming office after the May 2007 elections, Panlilio was able to collect for Pampanga P29.4 million from quarry operations on volcanic ash from Mt. Pinatubo.

It took his predecessor one year to collect about the same amount.

In October 2007, Panlilio told the media that he was handed a paper bag containing P500,000 right after a meeting between President Macapagal-Arroyo and local officials in Malacañang.

The distribution of money was suspected as a move by Malacañang to drum up support for the dismissal of an impeachment complaint against her.

Recall election

Panlilio, who was ousted the Inquirer Highlights of the Year for 2007, has lately faced a challenge.

In October 2008, the group Bagumbayan Kandelian sang Mercedes Pampanga has filed a petition for a recall election to oust him.

The petition was anchored on four issues—the complaint of rice workers Arsenio Lacson for alleged corruption in quarry fee collection; Panlilio's refusal to endorse an ordinance that would ease restrictions on quarry tax collection; and Lacson's supposed access to three funds; a podium case; and a case against Panlilio's decision to change the assignments of district hospital heads.

But last February, a Judges-dedicated Commission on Elections ruled that the holding of a recall election might no longer be possible. With reports from Cyril C. Bocobento, Inquirer Research

How do you optimize your child's ability to learn? Ask the experts.

Minds in Progress

Get expert advice to help you prepare your child for progress.

How can movement help your child to learn? Will the development of personal care habits help him learn? What is the link between talking and learning?

Join Minds in Progress, an educational workshop conducted by experts in the field of child care. Discover how to enrich your child's learning through lectures by some of the country's top pediatricians. Let your young one experience the joy of learning through activities facilitated by Camp Explore!

JOIN NOW!

Enjoy a day of learning for FREE!

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS:

•March 21 and 22 at the Shangri-La Mall

•March 28 and 29 at Trinoma

For more information, please contact:

CARELINE 81-99384

This workshop is open only to non-pregnant women and mothers with children 3 years and older.

Across the NATION

Ombudsman Visayas pours out outrage

It ain't over for case of overpriced lampposts

By Jhunnex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—THE DISMISSAL OF ONE OF THE cases on the overpriced lamppost controversy has Visayas Deputy Ombudsman Pelagio Apostol up in arms.

Apostol on Friday slammed prosecutor Emilio Lopez for saying before the Sandiganbayan 2nd Division that the Ombudsman has no evidence against the respondents and the case had defects because it was filed due to pressure from the media.

The Sandiganbayan 2nd Division dismissed criminal case No. 271 filed against businessman Isabelo Bruza, owner of Ishmak Construction and Equipment Supply Co. Inc., one of the suppliers of the allegedly overpriced lampposts, after Lopez moved to withdraw the case for lack of evidence against the accused.

P161-million project

The lampposts were installed in the cities of Mandaue, Lapu-Lapu and Cebu for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit in 2006 and were worth about P161 million.

"I condemn this type of statement. That is an irresponsible statement. What does he think of us? We are just honoring the respondents? It's not easy to file a case against the respondents because they have protection under the law," Apostol said in an interview here.

He said the statements of Lopez were unfair to personnel of the Visayas Ombudsman who had worked hard for the filing of the case.

Apostol also said they would pursue the cases on the overpriced lampposts before the Sandiganbayan but they would also ask Lopez to inhibit himself from handling the cases.

Hostile prosecutor

"The Visayas Ombudsman will no longer agree that he prosecute the overpriced lamppost cases)," Apostol said.

He maintained that Lopez appeared to be hostile against the lamppost case.

"It's more than Prosecutor Lopez should inhibit," he added.

At the same time, Apostol said the Visayas Ombudsman would assign somebody from their office to attend the hearings in Manila.

"Because of this develop-ment, I will assign someone on the case who will attend each hearing," he said, adding that he might send assistant Ombudsman Virginia Palen-cia-Jimenez, a lotsy member of the joint investigating body.

Apostol also said they would seek an investigation of Lopez for having seized the statements without consulting the Visayas Ombudsman.

On Thursday, Apostol just expressed surprise over the dismissal but he expressed dismay over the development when he received and read the Sandiganbayan order on Friday.

Reinvestigation

He clarified that the Visayas Ombudsman was still conducting a reinvestigation and preliminary investigation of four other cases on the allegedly overpriced lampposts, which were reminded in their office by the Sandiganbayan.

The Ombudsman had withdrawn criminal cases No. 270, 272 and 273 for reinvestigation while criminal case No. 272 was dismissed by the Sandiganbayan 4th Division but without prejudice to the re-filing of the case after the reinvestigation.

Apostol said they have almost completed the reinvestigation of the four cases, adding that they planned to consolidate all the cases.

He said they would also look at the possibility of re-filing the case against Bruza as well as the filing of a petition for certiorari before the Supreme Court for the reversal of the Sandiganbayan order.

Investigators found the lampposts overpriced by more than 100 percent.

Some of the lampposts are now useless as these are not lighted anymore.

Some ended up being installed on private property.

THESE LAMPPOSTS, installed for the Asean summit in 2006 in Cebu, Mandaue and Lapu-Lapu City, cost P91,200 to P220,000 each.

Far Eastern University
Dr. Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation
Regalado Ave., West Fairview, Q.C.
www.feu-nrmf.edu.ph
Tel. No. (02) 427-0213 (trunkline)

The FEU-NRMF Administration, Faculty and Staff
CONGRATULATE
our Board Topnotchers

and the
NEWLY LICENSED GRADUATES IN MEDICINE, MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY, NURSING & PHYSICAL THERAPY

After 36 yrs, RP's first flood forecasting system now hi-tech

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—After 36 years, the Pampanga River Basin Flood Forecasting and Warning System (PRBFFWS) serving Metro Iloilo, Pampanga and Bulacan has been modernized through a P408-million grant from the Japanese government to improve life-saving efforts in rain-prone areas.

The PRBFFWS, the country's first facility of such nature, was not only fitted with modern components. Its operational base was transferred from the Quezon City center of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) to the Diosdado Macapagal Government Center here. This was the Philippine government's counterpart in the grant.

President Macapagal-Arroyo and Japanese Ambassador Makoto Kuroda inaugurated the upgraded facility on Wednesday here.

During the briefing by Dr. Prisco Nilo, Pagasa administrator, Mrs Arroyo sat in front of one of the computers monitors to see the transmission of data from a network of automatic monitoring stations, including three repeater stations set up in the three provinces.

These provide hourly, real-time information on the intensity of rainfall and levels of water in the Pampanga River and its tributaries, including the Gougua River in Pampanga.

About 30 river systems in Central Luzon drain into the Pampanga River before exiting in the Manila Bay.

The backbone multiplex radio network, which has been equipped since 1972 with 800 megahertz and 2 gigahertz frequencies, has been upgraded to 7.3 GHz.

ENJOY SOMETHING FREE TOMORROW!

Watch out for the pages of the Philippine Daily Inquirer on Monday. You will have a chance to explore something for free. You need only your cellphone to discover things beyond the pages of the Inquirer.

Make sure you grab a copy of the Philippine Daily Inquirer on Monday and discover something that goes beyond our pages.

33 Guinsaugon orphans graduate from high school

'They realized at their young age that there is still life ahead of them...'

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—Thirty-three students from Guinsaugon in St. Bernard, Southern Leyte who were orphaned by the landslide that destroyed their village in 2006 graduated from high school on Wednesday.

The graduation of Guinsaugon's orphaned students was proof that they were able to overcome the tragedy that hit their village three years ago, said Hilda Grisolaño, in charge of the "Project Guinsaugon: Tabang Estudyante" of the regional office of the Department of Education (DepEd).

"We are happy for those students who were able to finish their high school. They realized at their young age that there is still a life ahead of them and that whatever hi-ups awaits them," Grisolaño said.

ROWS of painted houses comprise Barangay New Guinsaugon, the relocation site for the survivors and relatives of those who died in the landslide.

Gelarado said the students were very grateful that the project was launched by DepEd under its regional director Ted Montegrin in the aftermath of the landslide that swiped out the village of Guinsaugon.

"During our recent visit [to St. Bernard], these children obviously could not express in words how much they were grateful that because of the program, they were able to finish high school and eventually their college education," Gerlando said.

The 33 students are to finish their high school at Cristo Rey Regional High School, located in the town center of St. Bernard, which became an evacuation center when their village was leveled to the ground on Feb. 17, 2006 after boulders and mud cascaded down from Mt. Canlaog.

Over a thousand people, including 200 elementary school children, died in the tragedy.

"Project Guinsaugon: Tabang Estudyante" was launched in March 2007, in the time for the next school year, so that students orphaned by the tragedy could continue their studies.

At least 100 students were originally identified by the DepEd to receive scholarship under the program but many left St. Bernard to live with their relatives.

Under the program, each of the scholars receives a P500 monthly allowance for transportation and other school needs. Those who finished high school and chose to continue a college education can still avail themselves of the scholarship for as long as they still take a four-year course in a college or university within Eastern Visayas.

Since it was launched more than two years ago, DepEd has raised over P2 million in donations from various groups and individuals.

The money is deposited at the Land Bank of the Philippines.

ZestAir
Asia's most refreshing airline

ALL YEAR - ROUND FARES

ALL-IN

SPACIOUS LEGROOM & WIDE SEATS IN OUR AIRBUS 320

MANILA To Cebu, Iloilo or Vice Versa ₱488

MANILA To Bacolod, Kalibo Tacloban, Tagbilaran or Vice Versa ₱788

MANILA To Davao or Vice Versa ₱1,788

ALL BRAND NEW MAGO AIRCRAFT

₱488 MANILA To Busuanga, Marinduque San Jose (Mindoro) Naga, Legaspi or Vice Versa

₱788 MANILA To Caticlan, Calbayog Catarman, Puerto Princesa Virac or Vice Versa

for inquiries call (02) 855-3333 or visit www.zestair.com.ph

NPA 'tax collector' falls in entrapment

LUCENA CITY—POLICE ARRESTED A suspected New People's Army tax collector who allegedly tried to extort money from a resort owner in Otongan, Quezon on Friday, a police report said.

The report identified the suspect as Aldrin Aguson, 28, a native of Naga City and a resident of Barangay Bañang Bocaue, Pila, Laguna.

It said a certain Jaime Borak, 53, wife of an American national who owns a beach resort in the area, reported to the police that since March 13, the suspect had been demanding P7,000 from them in exchange for protection and security through several text messages.

The report said the suspect introduced himself in the resort owner as "Kaibigan," allegedly a member of the NPA unit operating in the area.

The local police set an entrapment operation to arrest the suspect.

At around 10:30 a.m. Friday, Aguson appeared at the resort to get the money.

Immediately after he had received the marked P5,000 padded with bogus P5,000 bills, he was immediately arrested by the authorities.

The lawmen also seized from Aguson the mobile phone which he had been using in sending demand messages to the victims.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

INQUIRER Mindanao

John Jan Bandayrel
Davao Chief Mina B. Alcantara

Saving Sarangani Bay's coral reefs

By Aquilino Zonio
Correspondent

CORAL REEFS—The "rainforests" of the sea, according to environmentalists—are the most diverse, the most beautiful and the richest of all marine habitats. They serve as natural barriers, protecting shorelines and reducing erosion from the vicious pounding of waves and storms.

But only a few people are paying attention to the coral reefs' protection and preservation despite their vital role to the marine ecosystem, according to Reef Check, the world's largest reef conservation organization.

In its September 2007 report, the Reef Check found that only five percent of the coral reefs in the Philippines—the second largest in Asia—were in "excellent condition." These were the Tubbataha Reef Marine Park in Palawan, Apo Island in Negros Oriental, Apo Reef off Puerto Galera town in Mindoro, and the Verde Island Passage off Batangas.

Add Sarangani Bay to the other world-class treasures Asean nations has—and should be—included, though then President Fidel V. Ramos declared Sarangani Bay a protected seascape in 1996, divers claim that more than half of the coral reefs in its 139-kilometer coastline are not just in bad shape but almost wiped out.

A DIVER sets up one of dozens of domes in Sarangani Bay to raise the place of coral reefs that have been destroyed.

Barely surviving

Chris Deanne, an English dive instructor, reveals that only the coral reefs in the western part of the bay from the coastal village of Bawing to General Santos City up to Maitum town in Sarangani, are still intact.

From the shores of Bawing village to General Santos going eastward in the towns of Malapatan, Malungon and Glan in Sarangani, only small patches or about 10 percent of the reefs are barely surviving.

Recently, Deanne and other diving enthusiasts checked the status of the coral reefs.

"The camera side has been the hottest bit as pesticides, chemicals and pollutants from the farming and industrial communities found its way into the bay," he says. Unless these harmful materials are stopped, he says, it may spell the doom of efforts to try to restabilize the damaged reefs.

Deanne further notes that siltation caused by unabated mining of iron in the mountains of Maitum and Malapatan for lumber and charcoal production has been corroding forever on the coral reef off Maitum. This was exacerbated by the presence of aquaculture farms.

"Thousands of fish and shrimps contained in land-based and floating fish cages condensing rapid growth treatments all have to go to the bathrooms on a regular basis, thus creating an excess of excrement in the water, causing algae to bloom and worse the coral," Deanne says.

Illegal fishing

During several dive outings, Deanne, who owns the Tuna City Scuba Center and Cambridge Tours Hotel in General Santos, and John Stolz, an American businessman engaged in tuna export, noticed that illegal fishing methods had damaged the reefs in the western side of the bay.

Most government agencies and the people tasked with protecting the delicate marine environment are not doing anything to check the reef destruction, Deanne and Stolz thought of a private-sector initiative to save the reefs. Thus, the idea of an artificial reef dome was spawned.

On April 1, 2005, the man-made reef dome named "Cambridge" was built. The Mindanao, Fish Port, Malapi and other artificial structures followed, differing in size, shape and design.

Each dome, made from locally available materials, such as cement, steel bars, sand and gravel, bamboo slats, oil and wire, cost only about P200.

With the help of local divers, Deanne set up the first five Reef Domes off Maharlika Beach Resort in Bawing, General Santos, on April 17, 2005. The resort is also used by the Englishman for his dive training.

"Once a dome is installed on a damaged or barren section of a reef, it acts as a stable platform for live floating organisms to attach themselves and after just a short period of time, tiny marine creatures will start to grow on its surface," Deanne said.

Holes in the structure allow fish and other marine creatures to seek sanctuary from predators.

5,000 manmade domes

In three years, Deanne and Stolz, along with other divers and sponsors, deployed 5,000 artificial reef domes in 20 areas in the western coast of the bay. The project was completed in August last year, but maintenance and monitoring dives continue.

Deanne says the project cost around nearly P1 million, excluding expenses for work divers and diving gear, transport and communication. "The total amount would at least be double or more," he says.

The project completion report said that "on occasions, within the first 24 hours of deployment, the clean surfaces of the reef domes have been covered with fish eggs. Many reef domes have resident lion fish or moray eels, which use the reef domes as traps to catch smaller prey fish."

Right now, Deanne says, several corals are naturally growing on submerged domes.

"Many students of reef coral colonize the reef domes along with barnacles and other types of protected shelled organisms. We actually thought that it would take many years for hard corals to show themselves. We were very surprised to see that it only took less than nine months of using live-anchored reef balls to show results," he says.

Bigger threat looms

Unbridled fishing practices, along with dynamic change, are threatening the wetland coral reefs and artificial reef domes. Local government around the bay are now rallying behind the project and actively implementing fisheries and environmental laws.

A few years ago, the provincial board adopted a resolution declaring persons who paint a certain Ms. Doreen Gaeng a city employee involved in the "Expanded Ice Cream" project, for illegally collecting corals from Timanglilanh in Maasim. Mayor Pedro Acharon Jr. suspended Gaeng for one month to show that he was not condoning any corrupting of his employees.

Sarangani has other projects on the verge of a re-vitalization process of the environment. It has launched the Sarangani Bay festival to raise people's awareness about the serious importance of conserving the bay.

Some rumors another challenge to the province with the construction of a 200-megawatt coal-fired power plant.

Deanne and Stolz fear that the $456-million Kamanga Power Plant (KPP), once in operation, will inflict extensive damage not just on the coral reefs and dive sites but also on the environment and public health.

Officials of Coral Holdings Corp. (CHC), the main proponent, however, say that the company would employ the circulating fluidized bed combustion (CFBC) process, considered the "most efficient and cleanest" among available environment-friendly coal technologies in the industry today.

In a statement, Joseph Rivera, CHC vice president for business development, said that the company would embark on a "massive" planting of trees in a 10,000-hectare land identified as a carbon sink.

Aquaculture farms

Stolz, a former US Peace Corps volunteer, told Coral Holdings to leave the diving sites alone and find another place for its plant. Deanne dared the company to put up the facility side by side with the sprawling aquaculture farms of the Alsonsons family in Maitum if it believes that it is "really environmentally safe."

The Alsonsons are among the owners of Sagittarius Mines Inc. (SMI), which is exploring for copper and gold deposits in the mountains of Tampakan, and Sultan Mining & Energy Development Corp., which is engaged in commercial-scale mining in the municipalities of Lake Sebu town, all in South Cotabato.

Sarangani Gov. Miguel Dominguez, a scion of the Alcantara clan, has expressed full support for the coal-fired plant.

"The Kamanga Power Plant is primarily intended to serve the power requirements of mining projects in the region, not for households," Pastor says.

He likens the coal-fired plant to a rat, saying "there can be no sensible rationale, but it's still allowing gnawing substance into the environment."

He challenges the powers in every players to tap renewable energy sources instead.

DOMES that would be used to replace destroyed coral reefs in Sarangani Bay are lined up ready for deployment.

'We actually thought that it would take many years for hard corals to show themselves. We were very surprised to see that it only took less than nine months ...'

San Beda College
Manila
www.sanbeda.edu.ph
COLLEGE OF LAW

The San Beda College Review Center is proud to announce the opening of its 2009 PRE-BAR REVIEW PROGRAM on April 13, 2009. Enrolment is now open on a first-come first-served basis. For inquiries please call: 725 6011 loc. 2108 & 6122.

ROSTER OF LECTURERS

REMEDIAL LAW REVIEW
JUSTICE ROMEO J. CALLEJO, SR.
DEAN ED VINCENT S. ALBANO
DEAN VIRGILIO B. JARA
VICE-DEAN PABLITO A. PEREZ

CRIMINAL LAW REVIEW
JUSTICE ROMEO J. CALLEJO, JR.
JUSTICE MARIO V. LOPEZ
PROF. MAXIMO F. MARIÑAS

CIVIL LAW REVIEW
DEAN ED VINCENT S. ALBANO
DEAN EDUARDO J.F. ABELLA
VICE-DEAN MARCIANO G. DELSON

LAND REGISTRATION LAWS
JUDGE ALBERTO SERRANO
PROF. CIRIACO P. CRUZ

POLITICAL LAW REVIEW
COMMISSIONER RENE V. SARMIENTO
PROF. EDWIN SANDOVAL
VICE-DEAN MARCIANO G. DELSON
PROF. ADONIS V. SARMIENTO

LABOR LAW REVIEW
DEAN ANTONIO M. ABAD, JR.
PROF. FLORENCIO M. MAMALIGO, JR.
PROF. ROMEO R. BATINO

COMMERCIAL LAW REVIEW
DEAN JOSE R. SUNDIANG
JUSTICE JAPAR B. DIMAAMPAO
DEAN EDUARDO J.F. ABELLA
PROF. MARIA ZAMAR R. VILLANUEVA-CASTRO

TAXATION LAW
PROF. NICASIO S. CABANERO
JUSTICE JAPAR B. DIMAAMPAO

LEGAL ETHICS
PROF. JOSEPH FERDINAND M. DECHAVEZ
PROF. CIRIACO P. CRUZ

LEGAL FORMS AND PRACTICAL EXERCISES
DEAN EDUARDO J.F. ABELLA
VICE-DEAN PABLITO S. PEREZ

"That in all things God may be glorified"

Serving up an ace for Pinoy tennis

Contrary to popular perception that tennis is played mainly by the upper class, tennis has, in fact, been steadily gaining ground in the grassroots as evidenced by the growing number of tennis courts in many barangays across the nation. It is an encouraging development for a sport where Filipinos used to shine in Asia.

WITH LEADING WIRELESS SERVICES PROVIDER SMART COMMUNICATIONS, Inc. (SMART) helping out by sponsoring a series of programs and tournaments such as the 2009 Butch Bacani Summer Tennis Camp, 10/U/D Junior Tennis Tour and the "Networking" project of the Philippine Tennis Association (Philta), the future of Philippine tennis is looking brighter and brighter each year.

Just two months ago during a SMART Butch Bacani Tennis Camp training session at the Philippine Columbian Association (PCA) in Manila, aspiring Filipino tennis enthusiasts demonstrated the high quality of their game to visiting age delegates from Japan and China.

US-trained and ex-Davis Cup coach Butch Bacani, who was also appointed head coach by Philta for its grassroots program, watched from the sidelines, keeping an eye on his wards. As they tested each other's mettle on-court, SMART led discussions with leaders of the Japanese and Chinese delegations.

SMART Head of Sports Marketing and Special Projects Patrick "Pato" Gregorio (from rear, fourth from left) along with PHILTA President Lito Villanueva and Chris Sports' Wilbert Tolentino pose with a few aces part of the "Networking" program which provides free tennis nets to all worthy public courts in the country.

"I was born poor, but poor was not born in me. And it shouldn't be born in you either. You can make it. Whatever you may wish to do with your future, you can make it. It gets dark sometimes, but morning comes always. Challenges breed character. Character breeds faith. In the end, faith will not disappoint."

—MANNY V. PANGILINAN

delegations.

SMART Head of Wireless Consumer Business Davila J. Mateo discussed the possibility of a "Tri-meet" or a "Triangular Visitation" program among the age groupers from the Philippines, Japan and China. The proposal was sure to spark sponsorship by the representatives of all three nations, and that very meeting alone was testament to the world-class level Philippine tennis has reached in recent years.

"An international tennis exchange program of this scale would definitely be advantageous to participants in terms of exposure and training," said Mateo, an avid tennis player himself. "Not only will it help them hone their skills, but they will also learn from the other educational benefits of traveling."

Values in sports

SMART's decision to be involved in tennis is consistent with the desire of PLDT and SMART chairman Manuel V. Pangilinan to make sports an important tool in shaping the character – especially the young.

As emphasized in his speech during the Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) Awards Night recently, the business leader and long-time sports patron says he believes sports is passion rooted in basic values such as excellence, determination and hard work, integrity, honesty and fair play. These are the same values he wants inculcated in every sports-loving Filipino – including those aspiring to become a Nadal or a Federer someday.

Indeed, there is no shortage of tennis aspirants in the country today. Take 16-year-old Dhea Tolentino, for example. Her father, a property developer, approached Bacani when Dhea was barely eight years old after seeing his son Isabelo play tennis balls by the railroad tracks. He noticed that his son really possessed latent tennis skills by the railroad tracks. He noticed that his son really possessed latent tennis skills by the railroad tracks. He noticed that his son really possessed latent tennis skills

Aplus METRO
Editor Rhodora S. Olandag

AUTHORITIES inspect what they seized from the shabu laboratories in Cainta (left) and in Sta. Cruz (above).

2 more 'shabu' labs fall in raids

Drugs, equipment worth ₱136M seized

By Marlon Ramos, Beverly Mahreldal and Tara Y. Quicasenda

POLICE AND ANTINARCOTICS AGENTS HAVE raided two clandestine drug laboratories in Manila and Cainta, seizing "shabu" (methamphetamine hydrochloride) worth P136 million and equipment used in manufacturing the illegal drug.

Three Chinese nationals were also arrested during the raid in Cainta Friday night.

Director Leopoldo Bataoil, National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) chief, identified the suspects as Vicente Lim, 52, drug lord; 48, and Chua Ho, 46.

Bataoil said that they are believed to be the detailed Hong Kong-based Triad drug syndicate which supplies illegal drugs in Southeast Asian countries.

He estimated the shabu and equipment used in making the drug seized in the raid to be worth P136 million.

He said the operations in Cainta was actually prompted by the detention of Lim in Hong Kong because of his group's ties.

According to Bataoil, an undercover policeman had contacted Lim, who also uses the name Hoh Hoo, to buy 500 grams of shabu for P500,000 in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Instead of handing the illegal drugs, he said the arrested suspect instructed the poseur-buyer to just follow him to his place in Cainta.

"He (police) happened to be a two-storey house on Kingspoint Street, East Ville Subdivision, Barangay San Isidro.

"Trained drug pushers like Lim sometimes tell the destination of the buyer by suddenly changing the place of the transaction," Bataoil said.

Extra careful

"Apparently, Lim was being extra careful to avoid police-men," he added.

At around 7:30 p.m. Friday, Bataoil said the undercover cop gave the signal to members of the Regional Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force to rush in the two-story house.

Upon inspecting the area, Bataoil said the antinarcotics agents were surprised to find out that the place was being used as drug manufacturing shabu, also known as poor man's cocaine.

"There was nothing in the ground floor that may suggest that the area is actually a shabu laboratory," he said.

The arrested suspects used the three rooms on the second floor of the house to mix, refine, store and store the illegal drugs, he said.

To avoid suspicion, Bataoil said the drug syndicate even put up an exhaust system to siphon off the putrid smoke from the shabu laboratory to a septic tank.

Big boost

Bataoil said the operations were a big boost to the government's intensified campaign against illegal drugs.

"This is a big blow to the operations of this dreaded drug syndicate," Bataoil added.

In Manila, agents of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) busted a "kitchen-type" shabu laboratory suspected to be run by the Chinese Triad syndicate yesterday morning, yielding three kilos of shabu valued at a street price of P30 million.

PDEA Complaint and Prosecution Unit chief Maj. Val Lopez said the shabu, raw materials and equipment were found in a clandestine lab in Room 403 of Building 720 on T. Alonzo Street in Sta. Cruz district.

Authorities had learned the lab based on the confession of Victor Ong, an alleged shabu chemist police arrested earlier this month.

"That is a big loss to the drug syndicate. Expect more drug labs to fall," said Lopez.

Shabu produced in the Sta. Cruz laboratory were sold to street-level syndicates operating in Antipolo City, Barangay Calawi, Quezon City and Molino-3 Bacoor in Tagaytay City.

PDEA Director General Dionisio Santiago said in a late briefing that the drug haul was valued at a street price of P6 million per kilo to a street-retail price of between P40 million to P42 million.

Lopez said other items seized were a liter of liquid methamphetamine and laboratory equipment used for cooking chemicals.

(MORE SHABU, A12)

City doc finds heart, home in barrio work

By Jeannette I. Andrade

FOR ABOUT PEOPLE, TURNING one's back on the potential riches of the medical profession and going to the barrios is a sacrifice. But for Dr. Victor Pangandoy David-Murillo, it is a choice between the urban jungle that is Metro Manila and the verdant, sprawling hills of Camotes.

Abella, a surgeon, has been practicing his profession for 12 years in the province she calls home. "I first realized that Cebu doctors were already way busier when after a long absence, my heart was filled with inexplicable joy upon seeing the verdant rolling hills of Mine, Danao or Cebu rushing pass," she said.

Abella is one of three young doctors recognized recently by the University of the Philippines (UP) College of Medicine Philosophy Fraternity and the Rotary Club of Pasa in "distinguish in the rough." The two others are Dr. Miriam Cabacungan and Dr. Arnel D. Banting.

Service above self

Their choice of staying in the country and serving far-flung areas have earned them distinction as outstanding doctors, cited for combining exemplary service above self and serving as role models for new and aspiring doctors.

Rotary Club of Pasa president Lucio Mojica told the honoree that unless the tides for the awards was postponed to her group by the Phi Kappa Mu fraternity, they unanimously liked and approved the project which was launched in August last year.

With P100,000 each awarded to the doctors and the contribution by he or the actors, Mojica said, "the doctors and the contributors both winners."

For his part, former Sen. Peter Rai of the Rotary Club said: "We just hope the awards will renew their doctors's commitment to serve the less fortunate in rural areas. We hope this impetus would be doctors to serve the country for the best going to others."

Dr. Cabacungan, who is also the municipal health officer of Manila, Eastern Samar, was adjudged the outstanding doctor for the Visayas and cited for being the only practicing physician to the area. It was through her efforts that Manila, despite being the poorest municipality in Eastern Samar, boasts of some of the best health statistics in the region and became the first municipality to offer wages rates benefits to all its health workers.

Dr. Banting, the hospital director health officer, was adjudged the outstanding doctor for Mindanao after he lobbied for the creation of hospitals in the community health information tracking systems of UP Manila health informatics department and trained health workers for the rehabilitation of the city health office. He likewise helped set up a water purification system created for the communities in Iligan, Davao, Zamboanga del Norte, which was then facing high incidence of water-borne diseases.

DR. Victor Pangandoy David-Murillo (right) with her two co-awardees Doctors Miriam Cabacungan and Arnel Banting during the recent Diamond Awards rites of the UP Phi Kappa Mu Fraternity and the Rotary Club of Pasa held at Century Park Hotel.

Advocacies

Dr. Abella was adjudged the outstanding doctor for Luzon being the first surgeon in the capital town of Vinz and the director of the Dr. Antonio P. Zantua Memorial Hospital Clinic. A prolific health advocate, she has organized many public health projects.

Included in her advocacies are the organization of the Camotesanon Breast Cancer Support Group and her choice for early breast cancer detection, co-founding the Mine Ladies' Circle aimed at empowering and encouraging literacy among women, heading various blood donation drives as a member of the Philippine National Red Cross Camotesanon Chapter, routine participation in regular medical missions and outreach programs and the chairmanship of the medical education committee of the Camotesanon Medical Society (CMS).

She also writes a regular column for the weekly newspaper Camotesanon Talitum and is editor in chief of her local periodical. The monthly CMS newsletter Camotesanon and the weekly History bulletin The Barkos Islander.

Time for family

Apart from these things, she confided in the surgeon that she wants to do a lot more for the community and maximize her time fully with taking care of her husband and three children. With all these occupations, seemingly, she laughs that she has more time for her family.

The surgeon graduated from the UP Integrated Program in 1991 and completed her surgery training at the Southern Islands and Transplant Institute (SITI) in 1998 before she established her roots in Vinz.

Abella recounts that the first time she set foot in Vinz, her husband Rene's hometown, she really wanted to practice there. "The place needs my service. I went there and then, was so looking back, I was the only surgeon," she said.

She said she realized that city life, with its smog and traffic, was not for her. "When I went there (Vinz), it felt like everything was falling into place. This was something I She gave up a very lucrative job in the urban jungle that is Metro, but feels blessed in being able to give back to the community

Western-Metrobank Card Hot Summer-Sure Winner:

Mr. Peter Baclaan, Branch Officer of Western-Festival Supermall branch, congratulates Ms. Anna Kristina Custodio-Cortes, daughter/representative of lucky Metrobank cardholder Carmelita Custodio, winner of a brand-new Samsung LCD TV in the current Western-Metrobank Card Hot Summer-Sure Winner promo. Also in the picture is Anna Kristina's husband, Rodney.

Your Urban Escape Awaits You

Turnover of keys to qualified buyers set

Anticipation levels are high as the One Oasis Ortigas community is fast taking shape. As of the first quarter of 2009, Buildings A and B are ready for turnover to unit buyers and the construction of the gate, guard house, and elegant theme wall has been completed. To mark this milestone, the blessing of Building B and the ceremonial turnover of keys to qualified buyers are scheduled on March 26, 2009.

Filmmaker had the city-savvy Filipino urbanite in mind when it conceptualized One Oasis Ortigas, a haven situated right in the middle of the city. This resort-inspired development not only offers Filipino professionals and start-up families a modern and tranquil home, but likewise a breather from the hustle and bustle of modern city living.

Within the environs of the Ortigas Business District lies a 4.5-hectare sweeping living space, with 11 five-storey residential buildings set against a two-hectare backdrop of invigorating gardens and open spaces. Add to this the recreational amenities that span the entire property and you get to escape the exhaustion of urban living just a few steps from your home. Talk about recreational city living at its finest.

At One Oasis Ortigas, you are never too far from the things you need and want. It is strategically located along Ortigas Avenue, allowing you to ease time and escape the inconveniences of the daily commute. It also brings you closer to the city's key establishments, such as hospitals (The Medical City, Asian Hospital, Philippine Children's Medical Center, Makati Medical Center, St. Luke's Medical Center), malls (SM Megamall, Robinson's Galleria, Shangri-La Plaza, The Podium, and Twincities), and educational institutions (La Salle Greenhills, Poveda, and St. Paul Pasig). Truly, at One Oasis, you are never left behind.

Construction of the first and 4th buildings is set to commence by April 2009. This will coincide with the construction of open-space amenities that will start in the 2nd quarter of this year. Future residents can expect the following amenities in One Oasis Ortigas: well-designed clubhouse that can accommodate up to 200 persons, adult pool, kiddie pool with water feature, skating area or open plaza, children's playground, reading nook, basketball court, and treepark.

One Oasis Ortigas - your patch of green in the city exactly as you. For inquiries on how you can reserve into the haven in the city that is One Oasis Ortigas, please call 956-7788, 885-7367 or 709-5314.

GATE and Guardhouse, One Oasis Ortigas

BUILDING B Facade, One Oasis Ortigas

VIEW of Ortigas Skyline from Building A, One Oasis Ortigas

THE CHINESE cuisine is an event during a visit to Cannes (from left) Ang Hok, Chua Sy and Nicanor Lim.

2 more 'shabu' labs fall in raids

Frumencio Adil

Intelligence information enabling agents gathered showed that the lab was run by the "Tsjia Group" of the Chinese Triad, one of many drug cells known to be operating around the country, mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau.

Sensing other Triad-linked groups is involved in the manufacture, transport and sale of illegal drugs are the Dragon Group, Sun Yee On and 4 groups called 14K.

"WHAT WILL BECOME OF THOSE WHO sacrifice jobs (because of the) global economy? Every job is important, and we have not seen any action from Malacañang since we raised the alarm last year."

MAR ROXAS, March 2009

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor Gerry Lirio

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in industries, in communities sites and in the homes of the world to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND MEMORIES If they had a chance to do it all again, three friends, all US residents, will take a common trip anywhere in the Philippines to remember the good old days, from left: Edna Bongon-Sabino in Cape May in New Jersey; Eng Mussad-Alok in New Delhi, India; and with husband Jim Kirk in Dalaas, Chino; Edna and Rey with Miss Universe, Byers (center) on their way to Mt. Makiling 28 years ago.

Friends in all seasons remember summers of their lives

By Sylvia Europa Pinto
Contributor

IT IS OFTEN SAID that summer is a time for friends, spring is a time for lovers, autumn is for the remembrance of things past and winter is for intellectual pursuits.

For Edna Bongon-Sabino, there is nothing like the Philippine summer with the calls of "barkada" with whom she enjoyed the sun-shining heat, beaches, energies of certain singles near an outlet.

A pre-school teacher in New Jersey where she now resides with her husband, Boy, and her children, Champ and Wig-wig, Edna laughingly says when asked to summarize her summers back home:

"The mental muscles plus only memory of shade and hey mind chilling in the mess of summer, and the warmth of the summer sun. You bet, I can hardly wait for summer to come. Memories and photographs of past seasons in the sun only serve to whet my longing."

Yes, while the temperature here normally rises to 90 degrees, New Jersey is still in the dead of winter.

Edna recalls that summer back home had always been a time for a grand get-away with friends. She remembers how in her carefree single days she got married in her late 30's (I went to visit Fe here and her friends to pick up and go during the months of April and May. Her coterie of friends then included Rey Mussad and Mike Velcro who are now also living in the US, specifically in Jackson, Tennessee and New Castle, Pennsylvania, respectively.

She and these friends in the summer of '71, in the Diliman Campus of the University of the Philippines where they all received their Masters degree. She was a high school teacher from St. Paul's, Tagaytay, Rey was a young lawmaker from the Mindanao State University and Mike, a researcher from the UP Department of Anthropology. Edna aptly describes the UP in that time as, "having staunch activists on one hand and the hippie lifestyle on the other but those things did not appeal to us."

'Wanderlust'

An affair that would young second, Edna was together in usual English classes in graduate school and ranging together to campus dorms, does solve their campus environment.

"We moved everywhere during the summer. There were those trips to Rizal's hometown of Lucban in Quezon for the "pahiyas" festival, the climb up the Cordilleras, the trek to the coast-line terraces in the North, adventure in Baguio, where we spend so much on boarding houses, tents on climb. There was the visit to my hometown in Pagsanjan, Cagayan where we entered the Callao Caves, to Dagupan to cheer the royals, to Tiba Beaches in Laguna for the refreshing experience of camping with our feet in the water, to Obando in Bulacan, where we participated in a street dance with hordes of children couples on the feast of Santa Clara, to the Hundred Islands in Pangasinan, to Mactan City for a look-see of Imee's wonderful beach—the iconic Mactan-Shangri-La's—and then Cebu."

"All that meeting about and adventuring, we did in the summers when we were young, agile and restless. 'Wanderlust' was our common middle name where magic brought us to a lot of places. It was made at crossroads and corners. Here, we toured some Asian cities. Then we ventured off to America. From the UP Department of Anthropology, Edna aptly describes the UP in that time as, "having staunch activists on one hand and the hippie lifestyle on the other but those things did not appeal to us."

'Wanderlust'

An affair that would young second, Edna was together in usual English classes in graduate school and ranging together to campus dorms, does solve their campus environment.

"We moved everywhere during the summer. There were those trips to Rizal's hometown of Lucban in Quezon for the "pahiyas" festival, the climb up the Cordilleras, the trek to the coast-line terraces in the North, adventure in Baguio, where we spend so much on boarding houses, tents on climb. There was the visit to my hometown in Pagsanjan, Cagayan where we entered the Callao Caves, to Dagupan to cheer the royals, to Tiba Beaches in Laguna for the refreshing experience of camping with our feet in the water, to Obando in Bulacan, where we participated in a street dance with hordes of children couples on the feast of Santa Clara, to the Hundred Islands in Pangasinan, to Mactan City for a look-see of Imee's wonderful beach—the iconic Mactan-Shangri-La's—and then Cebu."

"All that meeting about and adventuring, we did in the summers when we were young, agile and restless. 'Wanderlust' was our common middle name where magic brought us to a lot of places. It was made at crossroads and corners. Here, we toured some Asian cities. Then we ventured off to America. From the UP Department of Anthropology, Edna aptly describes the UP in that time as, "having staunch activists on one hand and the hippie lifestyle on the other but those things did not appeal to us."

'Wanderlust'

An affair that would young second, Edna was together in usual English classes in graduate school and ranging together to campus dorms, does solve their campus environment.

"We moved everywhere during the summer. There were those trips to Rizal's hometown of Lucban in Quezon for the "pahiyas" festival, the climb up the Cordilleras, the trek to the coast-line terraces in the North, adventure in Baguio, where we spend so much on boarding houses, tents on climb. There was the visit to my hometown in Pagsanjan, Cagayan where we entered the Callao Caves, to Dagupan to cheer the royals, to Tiba Beaches in Laguna for the refreshing experience of camping with our feet in the water, to Obando in Bulacan, where we participated in a street dance with hordes of children couples on the feast of

It's been almost six years ago that Edna made the big decision to leave the Philippines. "I was motivated by a search for better alternatives for my children. I did not believe they would find it there and so I made a familiar move: Pack up and go. I was blessed to find a job as a preschool teacher. I am still at it and enjoying the years ever younger of 3-year-olds. Boy, my husband, is also teaching Math to high school students in Prince George's County in Maryland. My children are enrolled in a Nursing program at Dana Hospital here in Jersey City. Despite the economic woes around, we can afford to hope because we are sure the government even here is willing and able to resource personal interests and political boundaries for the sake of the common good. Besides there is a system that seriously upholds justice: no one is above the law," she said.

Still full summers

So a family the Sabinos' summers are full.

They are visited by friends whose they bring for walks in Central Park and the streets of New York. They also get invited by friends in their hometowns. The summer of '07 was their in California where they visited endless museums and gardens museums in the picturesque coastal collections and botanical gardens in San Mateo. They also got on a two hour to airport once the very first by cathedral of Carolina island. They drove around San Diego, got to see giant cargo ships up close and almost set foot on the Mexican border of Tijuana. They went on a tour of the Grand Canyon and were mesmerized by the panoramas and awesomeness of this natural wonder.

They also visited Boston which is a fascinating museum of the old and the new. They also visited Cape May in South-west New Jersey. "There we stopped back in time to a simpler, more picturesque era. The town is a community of quaint gas-lit streets lined with classic examples of Victorian architecture," Edna said.

Close to PH

On the part of Edna Mussad-Alok, this is what she says: "Now that I don't work anymore, Ben and I have more time and flexibility to visit our sons more. The children are to teach during summer term here. Instead, we go pull-reading! Here's a trick that we use. Just books for us instead total confinement in his field and submit a paper for the conference. If it is accepted and he is asked to come and read his paper, he can get funding for his trip and be paid an honorarium also. There we just have to pay for my fare.

"We usually choose destinations that are being held close to the Philippines so we could arrange a side trip to visit Eng and friends. Just last April, we (the summer host in the Philippines. What I really love is being with my people, eating mangoes, mangosteen, mango and different kinds of fruits. Here in the US, we only eat one kind of banana. I live in the Midwest, so unlike Filipinos who live in cities like LA where all Filipino foods are available, I miss our fruits and vegetables. I also miss the Philippine scenic

I grew up where the sea is walking distance to my house. And now I live away from the ocean. We do have rivers and lakes, though. On weekends, Jim and I go hiking in a small lake down from where which is very interesting. I usually bring a book in the boat while Jim is busy fishing worms. Last time we went fishing, I was with C.S. Lewis just reading his book.

"The summer before that, Jim read a paper on Bodily Injury Compensation held in Stellenbosch Province in China. We spent a week in Shanghai, then proceeded to teach the six-week-term, once to us in the university in Northern China as volunteers. I taught a class on Business while Jim taught Computer Science. My class moved to Nine Dolphins two weeks to teach ESL (English as a Second Language). That was another education job to help a group doing some work in India."

Jim and Edna are travelling this April. Edna is flying from Silver Jersey to Auckland, Tasmania to visit Eng who has remained mine and seven through her cancer-filled days and nights. They wish they could be with their agents who is right now in Johannesburg. It has been a 30-year friendship. They may be in the seasons of their lives and to whatever weather but they will be to be remember like they used to during their youth.

It will be very cold when they are reunited—but again but in their minds, it will be the peak of summer when friends meet and.

Are new immigrants stealing jobs from US citizens?

IMFO
Lourdes Santos Cancio-co

AS WE RUSH TO THE CAPITOL HILL today to lobby for the passage of the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act, we must be ready to answer the questions with a question asking us who wants to explain the effect of immigration reform on the economic crisis.

Many, a long time look executive in Northern California, was terminated from his job. He opposed his frustration and said that his loss of employment and the resulting hardship humbled him in ways he never mind. period. What he hear now of efforts to have a comprehensive immigration reform pass and legalize the undocumented aliens in the US, he just raises his voice and questions the appropriateness of granting visas to foreign workers when 10 percent of US citizens are unemployed. To him it did not make sense that the undocumented aliens are going to be legalized so that more visas are to be granted to foreign workers on H1B visas while the unemployment rate is increasing each day. Are foreign workers stealing US jobs?

Broken system

Even before the recession, the number of undocumented aliens in the US was already around 12 million. The immigration system is established in a way that does not provide a fair and smooth legal path for undocumented aliens to obtain their visas and legalize their stay.

Even for legal immigrants, the system is already broken. There is an urgent need to fix the immigration system by passing the immigration reform bill. Contrary to the anti-immigrant segment, keeping families together by extension of legislation that increases the number of visas offered and giving immediate visas to spouses and minor children will foster economic growth. When a family is together and stable, there is a tendency to pool their resources to start businesses, become homes, and send family members to college. It will actually stimulate the economy in a lot of ways.

Economics of immigration

Immigration did not cause the economic crisis. Real immigration reform will help promote economic recovery.

At the moment, 12 million undocumented workers are already in the US and are contributing to the system. There are billions of dollars that are unrecovered in the Social Security System because the social security numbers used by the undocumented do not match their names. This is expected because these undocumented are still in the underground economy. If immigration reform is passed, these workers will become legal taxpayers and contribute significant tax revenues. This measure will help the economy regain strength and vitality.

The other side-matter in dealing with the undocumented is to deport all 12 million. This destructionist view is definitely not realistic, neither is it practical. The deportation proposal will be costly and will further damage the economy.

In just a few weeks to beginning April 1, 2009, the Extension for Nonimmigrant Working Visas or H1Bs will be accepted for filing by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services.

The accusation that immigrants are stealing jobs of US workers is more of a visceral than a rational reaction. We may also position information about the benefits of immigrants to the US but refuse to experiencing a corresponding benefit as a result of termination from employment, the immigrants become the easy target, even if they are not actually responsible for the crisis. After all, it is natural to blame innocent, hardworking immigrants than to blame the illegal immigrants of events that resulted in this economic downturn and layoffs.

The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Gomez

After Obama message, new Iran steps

WASHINGTON—THE GROUNDBREAKING message to Iran that President Barack Obama delivered by videotape on Friday was part of a strategy intended to emphasize a positive message to Iran in the prelude to that nation's presidential election this summer, according to administration officials and European diplomats.

Among other measures being weighed are a direct communication from Obama to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader, and an end to a prohibition on direct contacts between senior US diplomats and their Iranian counterparts, the officials and diplomats said.

The US strategy calls for an emphasis on diplomacy, in part out of concern that a more confrontational message that focused on Iran's nuclear program might prove counterproductive in the political heat of the Iranian election season.

Obama directed his comments not just to the Iranian people but to Iran's leaders, in shooting an apparent rebuff to efforts to deal with the current clerical government.

Iranian officials responded cautiously to Obama's message.

The video from Obama that was released by the White House on [illegible] p.m. on Friday coincided with the Iranian festival that marks the new year in Iran.

Obama made a point of saying that "the United States wants the Islamic Republic of Iran to take its rightful place in the community of nations."

The reference to Iran as an "Islamic Republic," and a direct statement about our American system, diplomats said, offered a first clear signal from the Obama administration that it would not pursue a change of government in Iran, a key concern of Iran's leadership.

"Your wording is designed to demonstrate acceptance of the government of Iran," said Mahnaz Z. Ispahi, a former US ambassador to Israel. "The message is dripping with sincerity and directly addresses one of the things they are most concerned about," Ispahi said.

Karim Sadjadpour, an Iranian-American expert at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said that Obama's message would force hard-line Iranian officials—like Ahmadinejad—to put up or shut up on prospects for better relations with the United States.

"What this message does is it puts the hard-liners in a difficult position, because where the Bush administration united disparate Iranian political leaders against a common threat, what we're doing is we're creating the cleavages in Iran," Sadjadpour said. "It makes the hard-liners look increasingly like they are the impediment."

For the Obama administration, time for diplomacy may be short. Iran has already produced roughly the amount of uranium to make, with further enrichment, enough fuel for a single nuclear bomb. AFP

Israeli accounts allege loose rules of engagement in Gaza

JERUSALEM—AN ISRAELI NEWSPAPER gave a fuller account on Friday of testimonies by soldiers alleging loose rules of engagement in Israel's war in Gaza, which they said led to civilian deaths and wanton property destruction. One soldier asserted that restrictive rabbis had told troops they were fighting a holy war.

The soldier was quoted as saying that the rabbis had "brought in a lot of booklets and articles," adding, "their message was very clear: We are the Jewish people, we came to this land by a miracle, God brought us back to this land, and now we need to fight to expel the non-Jews who are interfering with our conquest of this holy land."

He said that as a commander, he had tried to explain to his men that "not everyone who is in Gaza is Hamas," and that "this war was not a war for the sanctification of the holy name, but rather one to stop the Qassam rockets."

The account, in the left-leaning Haaretz newspaper, expanded on similar excerpts printed on Thursday in Haaretz and Maariv, a center-right newspaper, and came from a taped conversation among Gaza war veterans at an institute that prepares soldiers before their service. After the materials were published, the military advocate general began an investigation into the allegations.

The director of the institute where the discussion occurred, Dany Zamir, published the excerpts in his newsletter and invited them to the newspapers to draw attention to what he considered to be troubling revelations. Zamir is known to be on the left of Israel's political spectrum.

He is quoted in the excerpts as saying to the soldiers who spoke: "I think it would be important for parents to sit here and hear this discussion; I think it would be instructive discussion, and also very dismaying and depressing. You are describing an army with very few means of redress. End's the truth."

Earlier excerpts included an account of the killing of an elderly woman by a sharpshooter and the killing of a woman and two children by another soldier.

The ambassador published on Friday included spoke of the ease with which some houses were damaged.

About 1,300 people were killed in the war, but how many of them were combatants remains a matter of controversy. Israel lost about 13 soldiers in Gaza, some because of fire by its own forces. AFP

Pope urges Angolans to help the poor

LUANDA, ANGOLA—POPE BENEDICT XVI, on his first trip to Africa, arrived to officials in Angola on Friday and admonished those suffering the injustice of unrelenting poverty not to ignore the justifiable demands of the poor.

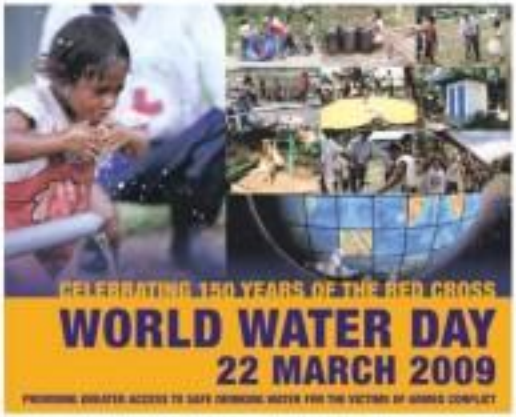
"The multitude of Angolans who live below the threshold of absolute poverty will not be forgotten," he said in a speech moments after getting off his airplane. "Do not disappoint their expectations!"

In a second address, delivered hours later at the residence of President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, he challenged Angola and other African countries to free their people "from the scourges of greed, violence and scarcity" through "modern civic democracy."

He defined this liberation as one supported by human rights with transparent governance, an independent judiciary, a free press, property functions and good hospitals "and—most pressing—a democratization born from the conversion of hearts to render corruption."

Dos Santos showed no signs of discomfort as he stood only feet away from Benedict. The Pope is a prestigious visitor for a man who has held power for 29 years while running for election only once. AFP

MADE IN CHINA
China's biggest commercial aircraft maker landed its first foreign order when General Electric Co. announced its plans-leasing arm would purchase an loan fleet of the company's new regional jets. AP



BY WORLD WATER FORUM
ISTANBUL 2009

World Water Facts

ICRC Philippines
Water and Habitat

Sugar's back in US labels

SUGAR, THE SEL is [illegible] periods, is enjoying a comeback in the food, processed sup as a natural, healthful ingredient.

It can the human sources in Peru that are called "The Sun-drink," to the just-to-toward soda. Sugar Wakeuk, some of the biggest players in the Americas food business have started, in the last few months, exploiting high-fructose corn syrup and other old-fashioned sugar.

The turnaround comes after three decades during which high-fructose corn syrup had been gaining on sugar in the American diet. Consumption of the two fluctuated in 2000, according to the Department of Agriculture. Recently, though, the trend has reversed. The sugars, American adults ate about 44 pounds of sugar in 2007, compared with about 46 pounds of high-fructose corn syrup.

Blamed for sugar's activity in children and studied as an addictive substance, sugar has had to shun of sugar problems. But the widespread consumer of high-fructose corn syrup has made sugar look good by comparison. AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

India says it has proof Pakistan involved in Mumbai

NEW DELHI—India's prime minister says it has "overwhelming evidence" that "official agencies" of Pakistan were involved in the Mumbai attacks that left 165 people dead. Prime Minister P. Chidambaram also accused Pakistan in a television interview to be aired on Sunday of doing nothing to dismantle terrorist militant camps on its soil amid ongoing tensions between the nuclear-armed neighbors. "Given the overwhelming evidence we have, I am entitled to presume that official agencies of Pakistan were involved in the Mumbai attacks," Chidambaram said, referring to Pakistan's powerful Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) spy agency and other bodies. AFP

Thai PM, reinisters survive no-confidence vote

BANGKOK—Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva and five ministers on Friday easily survived a vote of no confidence called by the opposition following a two-day debate on allegations of corruption. The censure motion against the premier failed with 244 MPs voting for him and 176 against. "Therefore, the prime minister remains in his position," said House Speaker Chai Chidchob. The censure motion accused Abhisit of confusing state party financial statements, and alleged that his Democrat Party had received millions of dollars in illegal donations and illegally distributed funds from the electoral commission. AFP

Madagascar faces diplomatic isolation after 'coup'

ANTANANARIVO—Madagascar faced international isolation on Friday as the African Union suspended its membership and the national commission, while the United States, France and Germany rallied behind the deposed president. Washington called new president Andry Rajoelina's seizure power a "coup d'etat" and suspended its ambassador ties and its Ambassador, while Nicolas Sarkozy, president of former colonial ruler France, called for fresh elections. AFP

FARC rebels in alleged Venezuela smuggling

BOGOTA—The US government says it will seek the extradition of two leftist rebel "cocaine to stem" as tested in Colombian on the part of conspiring to export a ton of the drug through Venezuela. The US Drug Enforcement Administration identified Jesus Santrich and several aides in Colombia on Thursday, as Jose Joaquin Montes and Monia Lilian Castellanos. It said both were attached to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia's (FBI) Front to Arauca state, which borders Venezuela. Colombian and US officials have long said the rebel forces, known as the FARC, use Venezuelan territory for refuge. In that it's grounded, to organize and train—and to export cocaine. AP

N. Korea says 2 US reporters detained

SEOUL, South Korea—North Korea detained two Americans for illegally crossing its border and is investigating them, the communist country's official news agency said on Saturday. The arrests come at a sensitive time, with the North planning on firing a satellite-equipped rocket into space in early April—a launch some fear will be a cover for testing missile technology. The North also is locked in a standoff with regional powers over its nuclear program. Just last week, reporters from US groups that distribute news in capitalist Thailand to a country where the World Food Program says millions are going hungry. It has also reportedly shot its southern border to restart days to protest joint US-South Korean military exercises. AP

■ Illam batters gun for 6th SEA crown /A26

Sunday SPORTS

Editor Tobbie S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

■ Garnett return sparks Celtics; Mavericks score /A27

Solar eclipses ABS-CBN

Pacquiao May 2 fight vs Hatton stays at GMA-7

By Jaculine W. Paya

AS QUICK AS HE PUNCHES, MANNY PACQUIAO made another abrupt turnaround by booking up more with Solar Sports.

Pacquiao announced yesterday that he was honoring his previous deal with Solar Sports to air his May 2 fight against Ricky Hatton on GMA-7 after "carefully studying" and finding that his vow most proved to be "valid and binding."

"[The] parties have favorably resolved their unfortunate misunderstanding," Solar Sports said in a confirmed statement. "Manny and MP Promotions have agreed to honor the television rights agreements and fully comply with the terms and conditions therein."

The world's pound-for-pound king apologized, through a statement read by his lawyer Franklin Inocal on GMA-7 last night, for unnecessarily but he was shocking Solar Sports in favor of ABS-CBN.

The ABS-CBN source, a network official privy to Pacquiao's decision to switch channels, could not be reached for comment.

GMA-7 doesn't own the exclusive right to broadcast Pacquiao's fights, but signed into blockbuster agreements with Solar Sports to host those fights on its channel.

"Ito pa rin ang kumikitang ng pamamahala kung kaya mula ay nagpahiram kung sana [pagtitiwala ang akong desisyong na ibibon ko]. [Sa simula pa, ngunit-gitang ko ito sinabuhan na which network will air my fight against] Ricky Hatton," said Pacquiao.

"Ito po ay resulta kung ng hindi pagkakaintindihan sa pagitan ng [This was just a result of a misunderstanding between] Solar Entertainment Corporation and MP Promotions."

The statement came following a meeting reportedly initiated by Pacquiao with Solar Sports president Wilson Tieng and chief operating officer Steve Chan-Leung in Los Angeles yesterday.

Last Wednesday, the world's pound-for-pound king made a surprise announcement on national television that he had signed up with ABS-CBN to telecast his upcoming fights.

The move set the stage for a looming court clash worth about P195 million as Solar Sports contested that the Filipino ring icon had granted Solar "exclusive rights to the audio-visual transmission of all bouts" from May 7, 2007 to May 6, 2011.

Pacquiao also has two shows with GMA-7 and has no existing contract with the station that bars him from appearing in shows or programs affiliated with ABS-CBN.

"In general, I think when he signed the letter [to cancel his contract with Solar], he did not have his advisers around him," said Jude Turingan, Solar Sports vice president for sales and marketing.

This time, in the presence of Gozon, Pacquiao signed another contract of his recent

SOLAR, A27

SOLAR POWERED Manny Pacquiao says the fight and decides to drop his ties to join ABS-CBN.

Illam batters gun for 6th SEA crown

By CedriC R. Tapao

ALL-NINE INTERNATIONAL LITTLE League of Manila (Illam) teams start their quest for titles in the Southeast Asia Youth baseball-softball tournament today at the Ateneo grounds in Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

With World Series veterans headlining their squads, the Illam contingent is touted to add a sixth straight overall crown to the six-day tournament, where teams from Bangkok, Perak, Jakarta, Singapore and Hong Kong are also vying in five.

Host country Manila Bays Blue Jeans's chances of continuing its dominance in the tournament, where three in-line divisions are up for grabs.

"I think we have a strong chance of winning the overall title, especially because we have the home court advantage," Tapao said.

"We might miss at least three of the five divisions," he added, pointing out that the girls' major league and senior league squad are favored to win their kind straight titles.

The Blue Jeans in the two girls' divisions have players with World Series experience, he said.

Six players who were either part of the team that placed second in the Junior League World Series in Taylor, Michigan in 2007 and the Senior League's contest in Bangor, Maine last year, form the core of Illam's team in the senior boys' division.

Illam, who entered the Batangas Bulls in the Baseball Philippines Junior II crown last year, also expects the two Illam teams in the senior boys' division to figure prominently in the title fight of this tournament sponsored by the Iglesia Ni Cristo, Metro Drugs, Tokyo Tokyo, KFC, Gatorade, Pepsi, Philippine Bank, Sen. Lucio Pimentel, SM, Knights Capital, Pioneer Insurance, Liberty Telecom, Adidas, Alaska Milk, Fr. S. Panlilio Jewelers and FILEX.

The senior boys' teams, Illam said, are bolstered up by Four Japanese standouts.

"We have four Japanese players who are new to the league but they are good," he said.

Manila and Manila 2 are each other to watch in the senior boys' division, Illam said.

In the opener of the girls' senior division at 8 a.m. at the Tokyo Tokyo field (Ateneo Blue Eagle Upper Field).

PRACTICE TIME Japan's Michihiro Ogasawara fields a ground ball during practice for the World Baseball Classic game at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles. Japan faces the United States in the semifinals Sunday. AP

Pacquiao back with Solar

MY COLUMN WAS READY TO BE E-mailed to the Inquirer sports desk one weekday afternoon when I received face-breaking news that Manny Pacquiao—after earlier announcing over national television that he was leaving the coverage of his fights from Solar with whom he had a five-year, $20 million deal—is ABS-CBN-bound.

I scrapped my previous column.

This development nullified the contents of the original column I had written since I had cut the possible scenarios had Manny indeed an outlining chosen it.

Actually, it the contents of his millions of smiling Inot all over the country was easy to watch his May 2 fight with Shane Kirky Hatton, Solar's vice president for sales and marketing Ando Tuvwatin insisted at first no matter what, the Las Vegas fight (and all succeeding Pacquiao fights until year 2013) would still be broadcast by Solar to the Philippines.

But we could have expected exact opposites. TVCs and money cases to be the order of the day had Pacquiao ignored his legal commitment.

Jade said we won't know for sure how Pacquiao was convinced to change his mind to transfer to ABS-CBN until after today's "Brilliant Thing and Peter Chen Liang, who flew to Los Angeles last Friday night to talk to Manny, return home.

• • •

Frankly, I was expecting the worst, especially when Manny had declared-ed that Solar present its financial records to Pacquiao before the fight.

How could he ignore a legal commitment, I wondered. Has his head grown so big he feels he is above the law?

People are now asking, how can Manny Pacquiao be a congressman, a lawmaker, when he himself cannot uphold the law.

Manny's fans must have been disappointed to discover this flaw in his character.

There are speculations that Manny may be thinking of running for a seat in the senate instead of congress.

Otherwise, why would he need the support of a giant television network if he had his eyes set only on a small area such as Sarangani?

I suppose we'll all find out in due time.

• • •

According to reports, it was I, not when the talks between Solar and the Pacquiao camp concluded.

Everyone was drained of energy after the discussions that lasted for several hours.

Dyan and Williams must have been more exhausted than the others considering that they had journeyed to Pacquiao's apartment.

I was told that the Pacman had signed another contract with Solar.

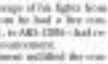
What contract could that be?

A contract confirming that he (Pacquiao) will honor the previous contract he had inked with Solar?

Pacquiao's lawyer colleagues are talking about a lady who their lawyer to have brokered the aborted Pacquiao-ABS-CBN deal.

No romantic intimacies here, they swear, Family business.

IN HUDDLE



Boots Cayko

PSC screens employees; 200 to take exam

By Marc Anthony Reyes

UNLESS THEY SING A RECENT MTV-radio tune, some of the 200-casual employees of the Philippine Sports Commission are in danger of losing their jobs.

The employees, according to new PSC chair Harry Angping, were brought into the agency as staffers of the different chairs and commissioners who were left behind when their respective bosses resigned or were replaced over the years.

The PSC has seen eight chairs and about 20 commissioners since its creation in 1995.

But Angping said there's no need to worry because the aptitude tests were designed to gauge their "strengths" and determine if they are qualified for their respective jobs.

"We need to have their files, so we will put them where they are needed. We need to know their strengths," Angping said, adding that there are still 20 plantilla positions left to be filled.

The PSC chief said old age and failure to pass the aptitude test are the only grounds for terminating the casual employees.

He added that those who will be retired will be compensated accordingly.

SPORTSWATCH

MPG unveils two tourneys

THE MANAGEMENT PARTNERS GROUP INC. (MPG) is organizing two basketball leagues starting next month as part of its summer bid to entice companies and clubs in the country.

Its first offering is the MPG Corporate Basketball League 2009 1st Conference, a league set open to all company-based teams. There must be at least 40 players who are all employees and are part of the day-to-day operations of the same corporation.

The other is 2009 CEO Cup, Colleagues and Celebrities Cup.

There is no roster requirements set for grouped into divisions based on relative strength as determined by the organizers in consultation with the teams.

The guidelines and registration forms for both leagues can be downloaded from the MPG website at www.gomotherpinoy.ph/cebu. For more details, call 8353252 or 0947-3307178.

UGBA series set in 7 cockpits

THE SHIFT-GEARBOX BRAKING ASSOCIATION (SGBA) Heritage Cup 7-hobbing derby series will be staged in seven cockpits this Mindanao-based April to Metro Manila, elimination circuit at San Juan Coliseum (March 25) and Mindoro Coliseum (April 1 and 15). For details, weight limits and additional schedules, call Ric Lozano at 0917-8777928 or 0920-589-7840.

OFFICIAL NETWORK Fiber Pipeg V Sports chair Hardy Ochoa (middle) and Making Network president Jack Belo (second from right) sign the memorandum of agreement officially making Making Network as the television source of the 2009 Fiber Pipeg V Pro-Season MVP Cup. Also present during the signing are (from left) league consultant Dave Ocubin, Fiber Pipeg V Sports general manager Rolly Manlapaz and Making Network director for programming Pino Libarnes. The league opens play on April 11.

ACEMAKER Gov. Ramon Bagatsing (left) receives a gift certificate for a golf cart from Club Caserta general manager Benjie Magsino during the kick-off Benedict Golf Cup tournament March 1 at the Alabang Country Club. Bagatsing was the guest of honor in swing a hole-in-one during the tournament sponsored by the CLSEA.

WARM-UP artist Mark Sangion (left) parries Isaac Tolog's side during their lightweight duel in Fenders fighting E.

MMA fighters stake 3 titles

THE FEARLESS ONES RISE AGAIN.

The united martial arts host from all over the country show off their fighting skills when they clash one-to-the top in the Fenders Fighting Championships-Fenders 9 on April 4 at the Vasaya Center in Pasig City.

Three titles are at stake in the event dubbed "Uprising."

Ryan Diaz puts his belt on the line against Bobjoe Tabangcura in the lightweight division; Raul Jabarit defends his middleweight crown against Gian Yuzo while Joel Jamaro battles Rodel Orate in a featherweight championship showdown.

Three other matches will also be featured in the event that features the famous octagon arena, where fighters battle using all forms of martial arts to emerge victorious.

The event is organized by Fenders Productions Inc. in cooperation with Mahiwaq Network, Inc.

Tickets, available through Ticketfist (911-5555), are priced at P650 for the VIP and P250 for the Upperbox.

George Linares, Contributor

Pagcor race: Foreign bets favored

THE FOREIGN CHALLENGE GETS EVEN more serious as six Japanese thoroughbreds, and three others from Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore make title chances a lot tougher for Filipinos in the second leg of the 2009 Pagcor Sprint BTC-KFC Series today at the Carmona Circuit Philippines.

Dodo Sarabia, who aided Pyramid 2 of the BTC division, will again head the champion Ilocanopus Racing in this event maximized by the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP).

The Japanese showed their might and in-

cent finished 1-2-3 if not for John Alvarez' runner-up finish.

Sheldon will gun for victory in the BTC and KFC division, the latter of which he will face off against Lt.-col. (Ret.) Lee Sanchez.

Are Indonesian Jon Senan Sukmoro, Dean will also move up to the premier BTC division while Malaysian Mohammad Hanif Bahardin and Singaporean based Christian Villanueva will be competing in the KFC class.

Bobby Domingo and Alvarez lead the BF charge.

GDAP golf show slated

THE 2009 GDAP CHARITY GOLF SHOW IS slated on April 25 and 26 at the NBC Tent. Fred Bonifacio Global City in Taguig.

At least a hundred booths will fill the entertainment by the 200 biggest golf brands including Burton, Titleist, Callaway, Mizuno, Cobra, Nike Golf, Lexis/UTR, Pelzer, Mercedes and Wilson Staff.

"We are offering something new this summer to make sure that it's going to be worth the time for golfers from different parts of the Philippines and even by countries," says this year's GDAP president Butch Valagunos.

Media sponsors of the event are Golf Digest, Sun 88.3, Wave 89.9, 89.5 RT and Mar 909.5. The show opens at 10 a.m. and will last up to midnight.

For more information, contact Ayala Mora Inc. at 890 3214 or e-mail golf@mediaexperiences.com.ph.

Fisu thumbs down Archers' Serbia Universiade stint

By Jeanette PC Paya

THE LA SALLE GREEN ARCHERS LOST a chance to represent the Philippines in the 2009 Summer Universiade from July 1 to 12 after officials thumbed down the country's application to compete in the basketball event set in Belgrade, Serbia.

Mikhail Bushel, sports department manager of International University Sports Federation (Fisu), said the organizers prioritized the 24 slots available in men's basketball to member countries.

"We have had over 80 teams from the member associations, and it will not be fair to select for the slots available that are nonmember associations," Bushel said in a letter to the Philippine Olympic Committee dated March 18. "I hope that in the future you'll become a member of Fisu and be able to participate."

The Archers won the trip as part of a junior package after upsetting rival and UAAP champion Ateneo Blue Eagles for the 2008 Philippine Collegiate Champion League (PCCL) crown.

But Jose Cojuangco, the Philippine representative of Fisu affiliate Asian University Sports Federation, said the PCCL and the Soaring Basketball og Pilipinas have already lined up other international tournaments as alternatives for the Archers.

"Definitely La Salle will still go to a competition abroad," said Cojuangco. "It was an honest mistake. Unfortunately we were not aware of this provision [that only Fisu members can join the team events]. We were able to participate in the 2007 Universiade in Bangkok in taekwondo, swimming and shooting. In previous years, we got invites even if we were not members."

The shortened trip disappointed the Archers, who were looking forward to the prestigious, Olympic-like gathering of varsity athletes from over 100 countries competing in 15 sports.

"It's like we were taken for a ride," said La Salle coach Franz Pumaren.

"We're still hoping against hope they'll take into consideration our appeal during the head of delegations meeting [this weekend]," said Cojuangco, noting that the Philippines applied for Fisu membership back in 2007.

But Cojuangco added that the Philippines instead battle in the basketball event where 24 UAAP athletes will compete.

The University of the East was the last basketball team to represent the Philippines in the 1997 Universiade with a lineup featured by Dalbert Jaworski and Danny Florendo.

Garnett return sparks Celtics; Mavericks score

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS—KEVIN Garnett made a triumphant return from injury to help the Boston Celtics defeat the San Antonio Spurs, 103-77, on Friday.

Garnett scored 18 points in his limited action after missing 11 games with an ailing knee and Glen Davis made a clutch jump shot with five seconds remaining to allow the Celtics (52-16) to keep sole possession of second place in the Eastern Conference.

"[Garnett's] our leader and we missed his leadership," Boston coach Doc Rivers told reporters.

"He's the one guy who holds everyone accountable defensively. Our whole thing is [if] trying to get ready by the playoffs."

Ray Allen led the losers with 19 points in a return of his own following a missed contest due to an elbow injury.

Tony Parker had a game-high 23 points and eight assists for the Spurs (45-23), who have underscored their problems that have plagued Boston.

Tim Duncan missed Sunday's game to rest his knees but was back on the court and finished with 15 points and nine assists.

In what was a defensive affair, Boston held San Antonio to 39-of-94 for on buckets from unlikely sources. Center Kendrick Perkins made a jumper with 2:41 left toward his Davis' baseline shot two minutes later to give the Celtics their second straight win.

Garnett played only 15 minutes but provided a boost for his team, which was 7-4 in his absence.

Bajros Beards chipped in 16 points and 12 rebounds for both teams, also just 41 percent from the field.

The Spurs missed on free throws in a row in the final 2:35, including four from Bowen's two for the third time in the contest.

"That happens. That's basketball," said Duncan, of the missed opportunities. "We had the guys we wanted at the line and got good shots. This was a very winnable game we just didn't have enough good performances—uniformly—overall."

Argentina's Manu Ginobili missed his 17th straight game with an ankle injury while San Antonio's bald rose several places in the Western Conference was notified in half a game over the Houston Rockets.

In Indianapolis, Dirk Nowitzki finished the game with a triple-double with 20 points, 10 rebounds and 11 assists in his second triple-double this season, and Jason Terry added 19 points as the Dallas Mavericks edged the Pacers, 99-92.

The eighth-time All-Star forward scored 17 points in the first half, then went just 3-of-11 from the field over the final 24 minutes—numbers that will almost certainly be forgotten after his closing flurry.

Indiana was led by Danny Granger, who had 18 points and 11 rebounds in his second duel since returning from a torn injury. But Granger's potentially tying 20-footer at the buzzer was painfully blocked by Dirk' Ryan Hollins.

In Houston, Ron Artest scored 20 points, and Aaron Brooks and Von Wafer added 13 apiece as the Rockets crushed the Minnesota Timberwolves, 107-88.

Brooks hit a second 14 points, but entered 1-8 of his 16 shots. He also had eight rebounds before managing for good luck in the third quarter. The Rockets had the game to hand by then, stretching their lead to 24 before the quarter.

Greg Smith scored 19 and Kevin Love had 16 points for the Timberwolves.

COMPLETE NBA RESULTS: Suns 16, 6-shots 102, Rockets 102, Sweats 89 Nets 89, 16 Miami 96, Sacramento 83, Nets 104, 98 Detroit 98, LA Clippers 88, Utah 101, Boston 97, Phoenix 88, Knicks 86, Los Angeles 77, Denver 94, Washington 105, Milwaukee 93, Philadelphia 91

BOSTON's Celtics forward Kevin Garnett (right) shoots over San Antonio Spurs big man Kurt Thomas. AFP/File

Painters destroy TJ Giants

By Cedell P. Tupaz

VICTORIAS CITY — THE LATEST IN THE STRING OF SURPRISES per forminnces from Rain or Shine gave the Elasto Painters a franchise milestone Saturday night in the Metroline Pila Fiesta Conference here.

The Elasto Painters, downing another huge game from Joe Lewis, dominated the Purefoods Giants from start to finish in a 120-99 victory at the Victorias Gym here.

The road win boosted Rain or Shine to 4-1, its best five-game start ever since joining the league three seasons ago.

Lewis once again proved he's indeed fit for the Elasto Painters, finishing with 28 points, including 12 in the first three quarters, while muscling his average of 20 rebounds.

His efficient play inside the paint opened up the floor for the rest of the Elasto Painters, who went on to post a 28-20 holder on Gabe Norwood's layup midway in the third quarter.

Unable to immediately adjust to the Giants' system, high-scoring import Johnnie Thorpe scored 23 points on his debut, but most of his baskets came late in the fourth quarters when the outcome was already settled.

GAMES TODAY
(Ninoy Aquino)
9 a.m.—Sta. Lucia vs. Air21
4:30 p.m.—Ginebra vs. Barako Bull/Red Bull

The 6-foot-5 Thorpe, who played college ball in the University of Houston, replaced Jim Jackson, whose performance deteriorated after an impressive debut.

Meanwhile, Alaska and Talk 'N' Text stood its Oath trial against viewpoint to stay where they took 8-5th, Lucena and Red Bull, respectively at the Big Dome in Cubao.

The Aces came the 4 p.m. game with unrestricted availability after watching go six-guy Willie Miller unprecedentedly carried three down the stretch to score an 82-81 tapping of Gumboo into Friday night.

The scores:

RAIN OR SHINE 120—Lewis 28, Norwood 16, Yeng 15, Ilaw 13, Ahmad 12, Thorpe 11, Ayaay 10, Ebio 8, Lassiter 5, Salenga 3, Ian 0, Arnaiz 0, Rantal 0

PUREFOODS 99—Jones 23, Tenorio 21, Asaytono 15, 2 Tan 8, Hindi 8, Custodio 6, Abarrientos 5, Ong 5, Alonzo 5, Tungcab 3, Erlano 0

Quarters: 31-22, 61-43, 91-72, 120-99

Solar eclipses ABS-CBN

Previous ad

pronouncement following the meeting, which reportedly ended at 1 a.m. at Benjamin's apartment in Los Angeles.

"Accordingly, MR Promotions and Manny Pacquiao have authorized us in settling their dominion before dated March 17th, 2009," the Solar press released said.

Garcia stated: "David [assuring for Pacquiao] on behalf we manages any remaining payments of pay-per-view involving names eg. [Manny Pacquiao vs. David Diaz] so as everyone that after carefully studying and weighing things with Solar Entertainment Corporation, negotiations to any kind were weighed on TV rights eg of any type taken as valid and binding of truth including situations [it was proven that the contract regarding an TV rights to exist and binding and valid] heralded by anyone]."

Benjamin's camp decision to change their figure was apparently due to in his personal to free, which sources said amounted to P50 million per fight.

Solar Sports denied the allegations and even claimed that the Filipino ring icon is totally dismissed for all vague purposes.

"We hope that we can put all of this behind us," the Solar release said.

Isla swim clinics slated

GERARDO "Bal," ROJAS, WHO HAS PART OF THE PP TEAM IN SWIMMING in the 1993 and 1997 Olympics, is once again lending up with his integrated Sports Learning Academy headed by Bobo Tan in offering the latest lessons and programs designed to teach the latest scientific techniques in swimming. The programs, which are fully supported by the Isla sports clinics, Barangka and Tamaraw, begin tomorrow (March 23) and will run through the entire summer in different venues. Interested parties may contact 897-5023 or 4660-168 and 0922-8889WM or 0922-8857848 for venue and schedule details.

CHEERS! The Perpetual Help Altas show off the form that helped them to threepeat (3) and emerge triumphant in the recent national Cheerdancing Competition. The Altas defeated two-time defending champion Central Colleges of the Philippines for the title.

'El Presidente' leads Cebu hoop camp

THE RAMON FERNANDEZ BASKETball Academy (RFBA) will be conducting the "Walk Tall with Basketball" clinic this summer.

The camp will run for seven days on April 25, 28, 27 to May 1 at the Capitol Parish Gym along Escario St. The tutoring module will be open to boys and girls ages 6 to 12 years old.

Fernandez, listed No. 1 in the list of the PBA's 25 all-time greats, will personally handle the clinics.

"Such recognition has inspired me to all the more to share the best of what I have learned to the next generation, not just in the development of athletic skills and individual well-being but also understanding the essential values acquired through sports," Fernandez, one of only two four-time PBA MVPs, said.

Registration fee is P5,000 inclusive of 2 training shirts, 1 "Sports for El Presidente" basketball and a certificate of attendance.

To register, interested parties may call 922-4133446 or visit the RFBA Gym Elevens Modernong office at Unit 302, Cantic Building, San Miguel Ave. in front of the old campus of the Ateneo Basic School for Boys.

THE LEGENDARY Ramon Fernandez hopes to coach kids what made him one of the country's best all-around basketball talents of all time.

All set for Manila S'woods Invitational golf tourney

THE MUCH-AWAITED MANILA SOUTHwoods Invitational 2009, a two-man team event featuring 4 members and his guests, is set from April 2 to 5 with more than 150 partnerships expected to take part at the Manors and Legends courses of The Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club in Carmona, Cavite.

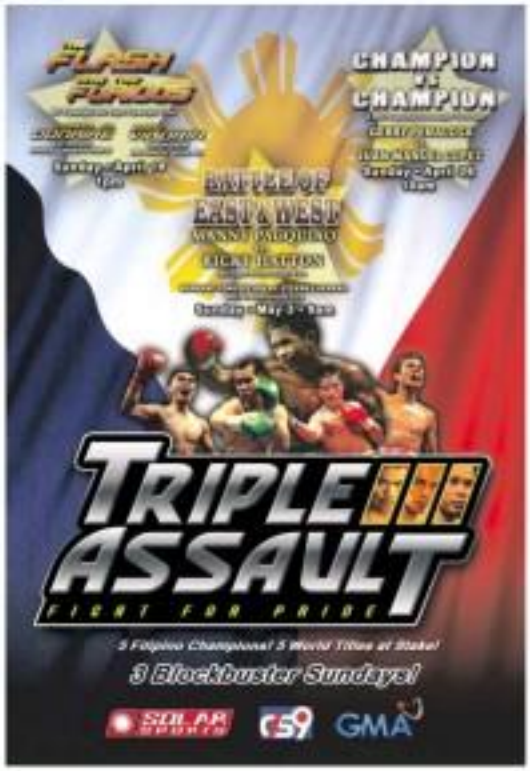
As in previous Invitationals, Manila Southwoods chairman Robert John Sobrepeña announced yesterday that the tournament will be offering a lot of holes-in-one and rolls prizes.

Heading the list of hole-in-one prizes are the 2009 Mitsubishi Lancer ES1.8 MT courtesy of Mitsubishi Motors and Diamond Motors and two-night deluxe vacation stay for two at Resort Center for Four Royal Caribbean International's Barcia Travel with Korona del Mundo cruise tickets (Manila-Los Angeles-Manila).

The Hotel Caribbean's five-day/four-night Swim Center for two with option to win a four-day/three-night golf package in choice of sixbes, accommodations and rounds of golf in Ilora Resorts Iwata Isabela Tourism Board, and a three-day/two-night cruise stay for two with breakfast at the Marina Shangri-La on select golf for golfer for cruise.

The Invitational 2009 is also raising an 9/36 motorbike from 1000 Motorbike, a 2-HP split-type Mitsubishi aircondition unit, a 3-day/2-night El Nido vacation package in choice of airfare and a Coca-Cola golf vacation package either to Clubs or Bangkok.

And for those who look forward to new equipment, three golf sets from Wilson Sports, Maruton Sports Mizuno, and Dynamic Sports plus golf carts each from Club Car/Sunpoint and Texas Eagle/The Turf Company will be contested as well.



Sunday SPORTS

Lascuña ties for 9th in India behind record-breaking Thai

NEW DELHI—ANTONIO LASCUÑA CLOSED out with an even par 72 and tied for ninth place in the $300,000 Gali Open championship which Chapchai Nirat of Thailand thoroughly dominated to win with a world record 22-under-par total Saturday.

Lascuña, who had earlier rounds of 65-67-67, earned $5,975 by finishing with a 17-under 271 total like Rory Hie of Indonesia and Ross Bain of Scotland.

Mars Pisany also wound up with a 72 after shooting 67-68-70 to drop into a tie for 20th place at 13-under 275. He won $3,340.

Jeremy Bekelaire totalled 277 (71-69-65-72) and picked up $2,402 while Artemio Murakami was a stroke behind at 278 (67-68-71-72) and won $2,106.

The 35-year-old Chapchai made a birdie on his final hole to finish with 67 and a total of 266 on the par 72 Classic Golf Resort course to better the previous mark of 21-under set by South Africa's Ernie Els on a par-73 course at Rajshka, Himaal in 2003 while winning the IX PGA Tour's Mercedes Benz Championships.

Chapchai, who won his third Asian Tour title, also improved on the Asian Tour's previous best of 20-under, also set by Els, at the 2003 Johnnie Walker Classic in Perth, Australia.

"My target now is win the title, I was not thinking of the world record," Chapchai said after draining his fifth birdie of the final round on the last hole. "I felt no pressure on final putt, but it was a nice to see the ball roll in."

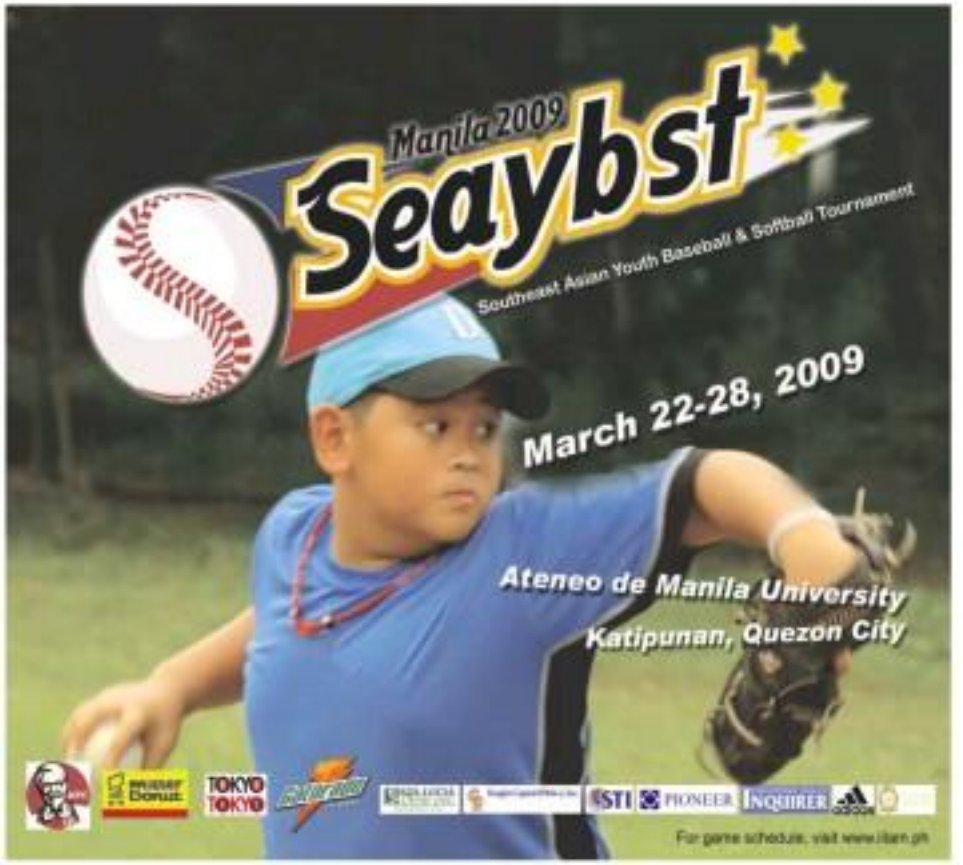
Chechai, who shot 62-62-65 in the first three rounds, won the title with an 11-stroke margin over Richard Moir of Australia and Gagjeth Bhullar of India. —Asian Free News

NBTC: Laguna wins twice

HEALTH SOLUTIONS Laguna registered two straight victories over Tarlac and Dinagapore in the Nokia National Basketball Training Center (NBTC) Cup Leagues on Friday night and yesterday morning at the SMBA gym in Subic, Olongapo.

The team of coach Jun Tiongco first topped Tarlac, 82-63, in this the tournament under the Sarsaburg Basketball ng Pilipinas.

The Southern Tagalog ballclub then crushed hometown squad Dinagapo, 86-61.



Business/Features Editor Margie Quiroga-Espino
Sunday BIZ

AIMalumni
www.AIMalumni.org

Nestlé in RP brews up coffee planting plan

Buying stations put in place to help farmers

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

EVERY DAY, FOUR OF five Filipino coffee drinkers reach out for a cup of Nescafé to perk up their mornings and get their day off to a good start. This has made Nestlé Philippines Inc., the local subsidiary of Nestlé S.A. of Switzerland, the dominant player in the growing coffee industry in the Philippines.

The success of Nestlé is due to no small part to the contribution of the coffee farmers all over the country who supply it the top-quality coffee beans to sustain its manufacturing and distribution businesses.

Thus, Nestlé believes that it is but proper to help improve the plight of the coffee farmers who form a vital link in its extensive supply chain. Ultimately, what is good for the farmers is good for Nestlé, too.

To do so, Nestlé went directly to where the farmers are, and one of its major programs is the setting up of satellite buying stations in areas with great concentrations of coffee farmers.

The first buying station was set up in 1986 in Davao. Today, it also has buying stations in Tagaytay, Cagayan, Solano, Nueva Vizcaya, Silang, Cavite, Maasin, South Cotabato, San Fernando, Agusan del Sur, Iloilo City, Negros Occidental, and the Cagayan de Oro Nestlé factory in Misamis Oriental.

Fair price

Art Barte, who heads Nestlé's Agricultural Services Department, says that with the satellite buying stations, farmers have the option to sell directly to Nestlé without going through a trader, thus ensuring them a fair market price for their produce.

While the satellite buying stations helped raise the income of the farmers, Nestlé realized immediately that it needed to do more, especially in bringing up the domestic production of Robusta beans, the main variety used in the manufacturing of its Nescafé coffee, such as the widely popular Nescafé Classic.

Thus, Nestlé formulated and then strengthened a full-blown agronomy program that touches on five major areas: Research and development, training, sustainability and monitoring.

The nerve center of this type of agricultural assistance is the Nestlé Experimental and Demonstration Farm in Tagum City, Davao del Norte, which was established in 1994 with the goal of reducing the yawning gap between the supply and demand for coffee beans by spearheading research and training on coffee production.

The demonstration farm showcases new techniques in planting and cultivating coffee that were perfected through experience since Nestlé started manufacturing instant coffee locally in the Philippines in 1968.

Through exposure trips to and technology transfer from these farms, Nestlé hopes that more farmers will be encouraged to increase their production and take advantage of the growing demand for the vital crop.

To get them started, the farmers are provided fertilizer, coffee seedlings at cost, and with the seedlings some training as well as access to farming technologies including fertilizers.

Nestlé offers three kinds of inter-

Nestlé hopes that more farmers will be encouraged to increase their production

COFFEE farming has become more viable for more farmers, who practice technologies developed at the NEDI.

PLANTING other crops between coffee trees enables farmers to make the most of their land.

Choice
Because exclusivity comes in various packages.
Term | Interest Rate Per Annum | Yield
1 year | 4.50%
2 years | 4.75%
3 years | 5.00%
Open a Robinsons Bank Choice Savings Account with a minimum Php 100,000 deposit and get FREE** P500.00 or more*** worth of ROBINSONS GIFT CERTIFICATE
RobinsonsBank
Rustan

Meralco has the energy to support
60
Switch off your lights.
28 March 2009
Saturday
8:30pm - 9:30pm
WWF
SWITCH
MERALCO
TM
EARTH HOUR
www.earthhour.org

Investment strategies for relationships

IN THE EARLY YEARS OF MY CAREER, I did not have a correct view of life.

I approached life as if it were a slot machine. I wanted to put in little as possible into it, and I always hoped to hit the jackpot.

I'm embarrassed to say that I often used a similar approach in my interaction with people. I was more focused on what people would do for me than what I could do for them.

As a result, I would try to make what could "withdrawals" without ever having made any deposits.

Needless to say, I was not very successful.

As I matured, I began to place a higher value on people. As I made this transition, I noticed a fascinating development: the more I gave to relationships, the more I noticed to gain from relationships.

In my book, "Winning With People," I named this phenomenon The Boomerang Principle. What you put into relationships has a way of coming back to you.

During my time in leadership, I've noticed that people fall into three broad categories with regards to how they view relationships.

1) **Takers.** Takers receive and never give. They are the people in life who have a me-first mentality. They try to connect as much as they can from the relationships in their lives, and they rarely, if ever, commit giving back.

2) **Traders.** Traders receive and then give. Traders will only send you a Christmas card, if you've mailed one to them. They picture relationships as an equation in need of balance.

If someone helps them, they feel a debt of gratitude. If they aid another person, they expect a favor in return.

3) **Investors.** Investors give and then receive. These are the people who give purely for the joy of giving. They add value to others, not as part of a cold calculation, but as a habit.

Although doing so may not contribute an instant return, in the long run they reap the gratitude and goodwill of those they have helped.

Investment strategies

Instead of viewing relationships as a slot machine, picture them like the stock market. To get rich, make regular deposits in people over an extended period of time.

At first, you may feel like the value of what you're putting in isn't worth the investment. Then, over time, like the stock market, in the long run, you'll reap dividends and gain rewards.

If **Think 'Others First.'** Human nature tends to focus on personal needs, but investing in relationships requires us to prioritize others.

Instead of self-advancement, think others-enhancement. Like a responsible investor, resist the temptation to "time" the relational market, using someone only for short-term gain. That's a strategy doomed to fail.

On the contrary, make a habit of adding value to relationships and trust that the long-term results will be in your favor.

2) **Focus on the investment, not the return.** If you've ever purchased stocks personally, then you know the agony of watching the vicissitudes of the market.

Like a roller coaster, your portfolio climbs up one day only to back down the next day. Instead of agonizing over returns, a devoted investor focuses on making the investment.

The same principle holds true in relationships. Don't expect specific and immediate benefit from your relational inputs. Though time, you'll be taken care of as long as you're willing to invest.

3) **Make educated investments.** Not all investments yield the same interest, and not all relationships produce the same reward. As a leader, make investing in others a general principle, but be deliberate about putting energy into less risk, high-reward relationships.

Seek out talented people with teachable dispositions, and offer your relational capital to those who will make the most of it.

4) **Initiate the investment.** A stockbroker won't buck into your bank account and invest money on your behalf. You have to be willing to take the first step.

Don't be stingy with your relational investments, giving only to those who've first given to you. Rather, take responsibility for setting the tone of adding value in your relationships.

(**Journal "I'm Inspired"**—a learning event featuring Dennis King, Anthony Pangilinan, TCFB co-author and SMDLDF Batch Ateneo(s) and PBC president Anton Jaffrey on April 2, 2009, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the Rockwell Cinema. Call 687-2834 or 0917-8211123. Early ticket costs P1,500 plus VAT (pre-bid group rates are available.)

MTID de Amor's wedding package includes an overnight stay perhaps in a room similar to this, for the newlyweds.

THE RESORT'S [illegible] **Bulanga River**

Rambutan orchard ad character to rustic B&I

Text and photos by Marian Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SAN PABLO CITY, LAGUNA—Jorge and Amor Sandael took a lot of risks when they bought a parcel of barren land in this city. Said it was only after 16 years when they started to reap the fruits of their hard work.

Mercedes Amor, a food and beverage basis resort, offers a venue for garden weddings, company conferences and family activities with a tranquil setting far removed from the "concrete jungle."

"It is privacy that people are paying for," said Jorge, 59.

He said the establishment aims to provide the right ambiance and comfortable rooms—all tastefully done—to help boost tourism in San Pablo City.

Good buy

"People asked us to share with them the place," and it was in 2000 when we decided to open Villa de Amor publicly, said Jorge.

Apart from the farm resort, the couple also runs a 20-year-old business services business in Manila from where they sourced the cup and the farm de Amor.

They believe in doing away with credit loans to reduce the pressures on them.

"If there is a concern are happy," said Amor. there's more, that's just we do not have a mand action to worry about."

The couple completed facilities styled with Asian inspired designs a

Most of the cottages rare were made from a sourced from unique relatives and friends.

The couple [illegible] equipped with bath va from Dekor, Onkor, re and maintenance, mobile

Jorge also showed a elegant chandelier, a l the Garden Pavilion, pianito at the resort, bought from a sidewalk Sto. Tomas, Batangas.

"My wife don't go way to shop," said An that they only happen the "good buys." Tha how they acquired

Ten minutes from NUVALI's hub, the landscape comes alive.
Greenways mingle between homes, lives intertwine.
A lake befriends the hills, trees flirt with the sky.
And in this charming quiet, the heart feels at home.
Here, it's not daydreaming. It's living your dream everyday.

COUPLE Jorge and Anne Bonsol of Site de Amor

THE TREE-HOUSE cottage is for guests yearning for adventure in the wild.

ds

3

Site more jar for only P15,000.

A place of love

Considering discussions exercised from their business with all four of their children—of pre-frozen souls—already abroad, the couple has more time to entertain on Site de Amor.

In deciding to venture into destination business, the couple manages the viewpoints in the same way they handle their 32-year-old marriage.

"We both take part in decision-making. We have the same passion anyway," said the husband who manages the finances while the wife supervises the flow of choices at the resort.

Apart from a spacious sundeck overlook, Site de Amor has rooms that can host up to 400 persons.

It also has a 420-square meter wide and 4-feet deep pool with free-flowing water coming from Kalanggaman river from Mt. Iro, Almas.

"We also get invited when we go wedding receptions also," Anne said. "It is as if our own children are the ones getting married."

Site de Amor's wedding package is priced much lower than those offered by resorts hotels in Manila.

"We hope more people from San Pedro will choose to hold their wedding here," Anne said.

Expansion

Tourists and backpackers are expected to place reservation at Site de Amor. A whole day trip costs P1,800 per head, inclusive of morning, lunch and afternoon meals.

He adds that guests often drop names of investors new to the novel-cliched itineraries, Jorge said.

He said the love could be higher than those of public resorts. But he is positive that "we have something else to offer."

For families, Jorge arranges the wild pigeon, fire-making and bonfire-back riding activities for the children. There have also been guests from Manila who have requested feathers, saying they've never experienced one in their lives.

Site de Amor also celebrates the traditional festival in July or August.

"We also invite trade fronts in talks," said Jorge.

For the coming festival, the couple are planning to invite a band to play at the resort.

The couple wants their guests to be more than just spend the whole day lounging on here and karaoke.

"I want people to enjoy my place," he added.

Site de Amor is located along hill-country hill of Maasplaya highway about two hours from Manila.

Nestlé in RP brews up …

Pretzeggo B1

ing…a three-day farm-to-cup, a three-week advanced course and on-site training. The farm extension—open to anybody interested in coffee farming and a field almost every week for groups of at least 20. Bondi also sells the rest of training plus seeds and found his three days. All the participants have to shoulder is the cost of transportation to Tagaytay and back.

Bondi offers more advanced training for agriculture technicians and other agencies that help farmers. It also tends to agronomists to provide on-site training to farmers as well, they go all over the country to check on the suitability of proposed areas for coffee plantation.

Bondi believes that as more farmers learn modern planting and cultivation techniques, an increase in production will inevitably follow.

NANDEKSHORE

Coffee requirements

"Eventually, we would source coffee all of our coffee requirements from the Philippines. That is when we want to achieve with our coffee development program," Boris says.

But for all its resources and technical expertise, Bondi knows that it will not be able to meet its ambitious targets alone.

As it awaited cues as coffee plantation owners and farmers, private coffee growers associations, academe, local government in coffee-producing provinces, academe and individual farmers who would all benefit from the growth of the coffee industry.

In the partnership, the academe provides vital scientific production technologies and inputs and low-interest loans.

Bondi has also developed a coffee-based sustainable farming system that allows farmers to plant other crops in between rows of coffee trees to enable them to earn additional income. This is in line with the Sustainable Agricultural Initiative of Bondi (SAI), a worldwide advocacy for making coffee farming feasible and sustainable.

Bondi Philippines chair and CEO Wanda Stadtlander says Bondi focuses on helping farmers to maximize coffee farmers to maximize farming system.

"Guided by Bondi agronomists, these clients farmers' farm-based extension on the practical application of farming tips and techniques so they can improve their yield and earn more from growing coffee. Through SAFI, we want to show farmers that coffee farming can be a viable economic venture," Stadtlander adds.

Stadtlander, in charge of private-sector-led Philippine Business for Social Progress, is helping foster this type of collaboration between the corporation and community so that corporate social responsibility can become an integral part of farming a business.

Bondi's kind of partnership with the different stakeholders in the coffee industry is so productive that the Philippines has become a model for cooperation in Asia.

Concept of quality

And it is not just the quantity that Bondi is looking out for. It also ingrains in the farmers' consciousness the concept of quality.

"We tell the farmers that we do have quality standards to measure up to. We look at such factors as the size of the beans, any blemishes like insect bites, moisture evaporated, of course, the taste," Boris says. "Through this quality control system, the farmers realize the value of taking good care of their coffee plantations."

He stresses, too, that the coffee farmers are not under any pressure to sell their produce to Bondi.

They can sell to anyone who can offer a better price. But what Bondi promises is a consistent buyer who is also willing to lend a helping hand and a sincere interest in the improvement of the farmers' yield.

"What we only ask of the farmers is to share their knowledge with other farmers," Boris says.

AyalaLand PREMIER

MONTECITO
NUVALI
LIVE IN THE HEART OF NUVALI
To arrange for a guided tour of Montecito, please call for a representative at 888 5800, log on to www.ayalalandpremier.com or email ask@ayalalandpremier.com

Montecito
Nuvali

SPOT ON

The Sweetspots launch: everything expected and more

Most product launches are lavish; others much spectacular but as the PLDT Sweetspots launch did at the SMC Mini Theater does an event backdrop and communicate the promise of a product so effectively.

A massively empty and stark main hall greeted hundreds of attendees on the event, mostly members of media, marketing, and various industrial sectors. The eerie visual analogy was clear: a reminder of that the free-spending days are quite nearly over in these recession-hit times. And yet surely, there must be a solution to effectively reach consumers with more targeted and effective media?

The answer literally dropped out of the heavens as more than 50 suspended LCD screens were dramatically lowered to about 20 feet above their heads. All the screens instantly lit up to present the seemingly message PLDT Sweetspots, the country's best digital signage solution is here to redefine the evolution of advertising and promotions.

Designed to be strategically located at the best places to reach the right targeted audiences, Sweetspots digital's state-of-the-art established digital signage models through its "remote control" capabilities. Messages can be added, changed, or modified at the user's discretion from a home or office location that is linked through PLDT's strong network to a centrally located CMS (Content Data Management Server). The messages are then beamed to selected digital LCD players linked "Sweetspots" offer the best strategic locations including a user's own properties and premises that enjoy high-traffic views and targeted demographic audiences. Through PLDT Sweetspots, users are provided with a more efficient outsourced option, eliminating the need to manage the entire set-up themselves. Many to the audience's quickly appreciated the fact that once a Sweetspots campaign is properly executed or implemented at their premises it is fully managed and monitored by PLDT which takes care of all these issues. All the user has to concentrate on is the total marketing campaign and strategy.

Shrinking Wallet Paradox

It's a well-known fact that consumers are holding fast to smaller budgets and they're keeping an eye on their every spending, especially on "discretionary" products. According to PLDT SVP and Head of Consumer Sales and Marketing Group Inc. Alberto, the need to stay "top of mind" is more important than ever, even as companies are reviewing their Advertising and Promotions costs.

"Given such market paradox, we in PLDT believe that we have the perfect solution for you - a high-impact advertising medium that is focused, dynamic, and cost-effective, and yet does not compromise on its effectiveness to reach your target markets," he said. Sweetspots illustrates the growing power and relevance of the Internet while delivering the benefits of real-time changes in advertising campaigns, the differentiated marketing approach to captivate audiences, and the informative and engaging displays of multimedia content.

The "Convincing Business"

Sweetspots is also seen as a new dynamic ingredient to the marketing media mix in the business of convincing consumers. Quite plainly, consumer behaviour including viewing habits has changed over the years and it may be time to increase efforts to reach audiences out of their homes. It is also more crucial, according to PLDT SVP and Head of Corporate Business Group Marissa Ramos, "to reach consumers while they are shopping or right at the point of purchase."

"Digital ad spending has been growing 35% annually signifying a shift to ad spending in more targeted media. This makes perfect sense in these times as we want to make the most out of our Marketing budgets" she added while announcing that Sweetspots uses the prestigious "Smooth Booking Technology of the Year" at the 9th e-Services Awards Night. "With innovation as a core foundation of PLDT, we take pride in paving the way for the massive adoption of Digital Signage here in the Philippines."

IN THIS ISSUE
Ballet world loses Mary /D1
French farm experience in Abra /G1

Sunday LIFESTYLE
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

Margarita's new business tool

MARGARITA FORES IS on a roll.

The Florence-trained chef, who's behind one of the most popular Italian resto chains, is not only into catering and food arrangements. She's also exploring yet another resto variant. She's opening a champagne bar, Louie Sean in Salcedo, on Greenbelt 5 any time soon.

But Fores is doing some of those without what she's come to regard as a critical business tool—drug deal. She's a late convert to the practice of tapping good, positive energy for the home and office, and of determining auspicious dates.

She's not opening Louie until the moon is in its ascendant.

She never followed feng shui before, and now, she realizes, it doesn't hurt to heed it. So—she's doing away with the spiral staircase that leads to nowhere at Pegasis. She moved the cashier away from the spot even which the pretend chandelier hangs, also at Pegasis.

Margarita's new conversion isn't unique. In fact, there are more and more entrepreneurs, we notice, who are tapping to feng shui—again (it peaked in the '90s)—these days. With stress being hard, it won't hurt to get some help from the rest of the universe, earthlings being best not dear infinite.

FORES at Pegasis, which is about to be "feng shui-ed"

Marc Jacobs and BF about to tie the knot?

LIKEWISE Marc Jacobs and his ad executive boyfriend, Lorenzo Martone, are engaged, according to a Women's Wear Daily news flash. It says the couple, who have been dating for a year, will "go public" as they arrive in Women's casino-fraud-smearing rings.

Rumors of the couple's wedding plans have been rife for some time. New York Post recently reported that the designer and his beau purchased together a $13-million, 4,300-sq.-ft townhouse in New York City's West Village.

MARGARITA/C2

From good times to recession—how Manila's club scene is coping, with or without drugs

Louie Y says revenues are down by as much as 20 percent. Erik Cua says something else. Louie Cruz—still X-rated views

By Cherche V. Moral

IN GOOD TIMES OR bad, people go out to drink, either to celebrate or get totally wasted. Either way, club and bar owners have always had it good.

However, that seems to be not the case this time. Since the economic downturn, revenues have dropped by 10-20 percent, according to the gatekeepers of Manila's nightlife.

"There are so many places and the market is so small," says Louie Yuseco wryly. "And so many are opening. . . (Cubs

FROM COVER C1

CHOI Cojuangco, Aurora Mendoza and Marissa Cojuangco

KAYE and Mayor Fredde Tingo

ROYLAND Poly Arroyo

ESTABLISHMENT ride-dropin Joseph Estrada and Bonnie Gokiong

WILLIAM and Angelique Hamilton-Whyte

Guess who's joined the Establishment

MICHEL and Amparito Lhuillier and Elvira Mo

THERE'S A NEW KID ON THE BLOCK AND that's obvious every night at Bo Pot. There's a steady trickle of cars unloading the namedroppables and "photograph-ables" into the new night establishment, The Establishment—the brainchild of Joseph Estrada's restaurant and Philippine Tatler editor-in-chief Antoni Ona Diego. Actually, it is a dream come true for that famed management graduate of Switzerland.

Backed by business partners/friends led by chef Margarita Forés, Ona Diego wants to create classy dining/lounge digs which will have other come-ons as well: the music, the people, the interiors.

There are different areas in the Establishment—the bar and the main dining area, overlooking cultured ocean. Within stage and DJ booth, it will have entertainment every week—jazz singers, saxophonists and the best acts scrapped today at Manila.

Immediately off the foyer is Tolipan, the Spanish tapas bar Ona ought last week. Chef Eddy Evora and friends just visiting back and chatting.

To open in April is Cayetal Room, the French bistro open from breakfast 'til dinner. Opening in May is Brasserie, to cater modern Asian cuisine. It will have the first Weave Chopper room, a chef's table for 12.

This early, you can already spot diners' regular perks—their car valeted, parks, valeted and the parallel capitals crops.

Antoni Mendoza designed the place. With her, Diego an jeweler and Technicolor host Rafly Mercado, Archie Rodriguez, Lourdes Sese and Mel Navarro.

RUFFA Gutierrez and Bebe Gokongwei

POPE Fernandez

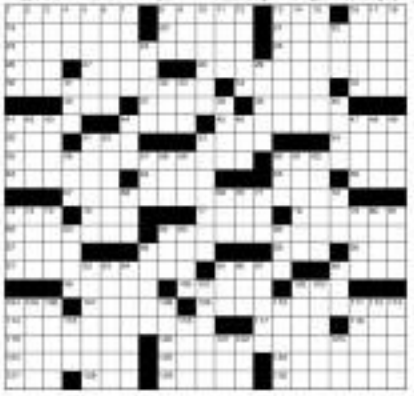
AUDREY Packard Chia, Shirley Hirao, Tessy Yam, Cookie Roa, Ray Li, Pia Arcelo and Rosa Yu

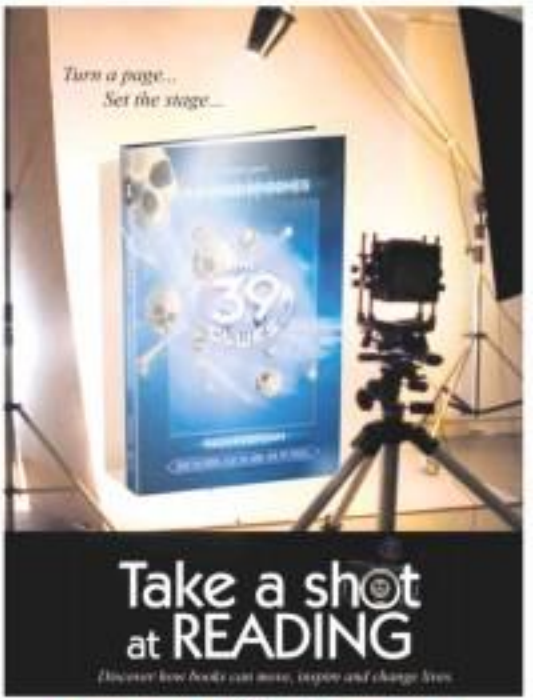
PATRICK Roxas, Nina Garcia, Ivan Sotto, Vicke Zobel and Maripi Meneses

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD By Frank A. Longo

WHO DID WHAT?





Margarita's new . . .

From page B1

The Gossip's Ditto is new designers' fave

FASHION'S NEW MUSE. Sash Ditto on the cover of Love

SUMMING the end of the 2nd collection, Sofia Laura Dalton found Pendi staged a concert to preview the new album of punk-rock duo The Gossip. Its three women, Beth Ditto, is a new muse-cum-fixture at Dalton shows, dressed by top designers like Marc Jacobs.

The human Ditto is widely touted as a new fashion muse in the mold of Amy Winehouse, who, a few seasons ago, also inspired creative director Karl Lagerfeld's campaigns for Fendi, has recently graced the cover of Condé Nast's Love, a new style magazine, fresh-minted.

The concert gathered Asians like British supermodel Kate Moss. But perhaps the best part was that Pendi did away with the usual extravagant show-pony swags, in keeping with the muted climate. Instead, giant wind banks with colored banners bearing the logos of the band and the fashion house.

Watch your 'figure of speech'

DID he or didn't he?

No thanks to Gyllenhaal, melodramatic meltdowns, like smoking inside enclosed public spaces, now seem to be a thing of the past.

A swindled video clip purportedly showing Jackie, designer Meryll Rizaldo and the object of his (in his) lately made the rounds of several blogs.

Not since her son's fiancé going by unbidden news cyberspace. Her boss that created, dishing out their brand of life against the designers.

With his back against the surveillance camera, Rizaldo was shown bending a hapless Daily Pete Philippines resident before making him kneel before him.

According to people close to him, however, the designer was merely "speaking his mind," since he found the "overseeing" routine "educational."

The cashier's duo. He refused to honor Rizaldo's credit card until he could compare the designer's signature with other forms of identification.

Rizaldo reportedly found the old store he had already made a number of outlets (named him using the same credit card) with different numbers, under the same name.

Unable to produce the required documents, an enraged Rizaldo, who'd just flown in from a Shanghai business trip, asked to talk to the cashier's supervisor, including the store's assistant manager/clerk.

When the store's two finally settled, the cashier/clerk reportedly asked Rizaldo how DPD could make amends.

The designer's pointing to the cashier, reportedly asked him to kneel before him. Rizaldo claimed he was merely using a "figure of speech" when he said, "Lumuhod ka" (Kneel).

Rizaldo then posted, however, the statement cashier demanded the cashier to do as he was told. And he did.

The video is enough to make you cringe.

Amina Aranaz and Payatas 'nanays' create chic bags from scrap

By Alec T. Pangan

AFTER TEAMING UP WITH DESIGNER Rajo Laurel last year, people behind Rags to Riches (R2R) founded tomorrow with a new, eco-friendly bag collection designed by Amina Aranaz and made by the underprivileged women of Payatas.

The partnership comes on the heels of the company's multi-awarded collaboration with Laurel. Its international awards included the grand prize in the Business and Development Global Challenge in the Netherlands.

As a social business enterprise, R2R provides employment to hundreds of women, called "nanays," in Payatas, an urban-poor community in Quezon City. The special-edition bags are available in all Aranaz stores and R2R partner establishments for a limited time.

"The collection is divided into three," said Aranaz. "Each category has textures & details components—wooden or mother-of-pearl handles, leather trimmings and woven paradas lining."

Those women have skills in making bags out of rugs and other scrap items. They had weekly sessions for three months at the School of Fashion and the aim is bilateral: to upgrade their skills. Aranaz and her team, in turn, also a bag designer, went with the nanays to source raw materials in a Tobler brewery in Caloocan.

From those sessions sprang "Lumbar" (monument), "Aplaya" (braided and caged) and "Rosario" (laser-cut) collections.

"Each limited-edition piece will carry name of artisan who made it," said Aranaz. "We already have a wish list for those pieces.

"Whether the bags sell or not, the urban-poor women are fully paid per piece."

MOTHER-OF-PEARL handle

BAG designers Amina Aranaz

THE "NANAYS" of Payatas

LAMBAT collection

WOODEN handles for this Aranaz look

and we haven't even officially launched."

More value

Dubbed by Rosie Fernandez, R2R's co-founder and EVP, as "upcycling," the process aims to put more value on participants' skills through more artistic and high-end products such as bags.

The Lambat collection sells for ₱1,000 a piece, the Aplaya series sells anywhere from ₱950 to ₱1,200 a piece. The Rosario series can go as high as ₱5,500 a piece.

"Whether the bags sell or not, the women are fully paid per piece," said Fernandez. "We provide all the components. All they have to do is learn, sew and assemble each bag by hand."

Depending on their skills and the hours they put in, each nanay can earn as much as ₱3,000 a week to ₱12,000 a month—a far cry from the ₱1 to ₱2 they used to make for sewing rice pieces together.

"Now that we've managed the luxurious item (assembled items to bags, we're looking for other goods) open bidder to provide our workers with other sources of income," said Fernandez. "In the future, we hope to form partnerships with interior designers to help address certain furniture pieces."

Easter Vigil at Monasterio de Tarlac

THE DESTINATION OF WEEKEND pilgrims is Monasterio de Tarlac on the occasion of this Jesuit Tarlac House (the former Papal Nuncio Fernando Filoni blessed and enshrined the Holy Relic of the True Cross of Jesus on Jan. 30, 2007). Since, the place has been drawing devotees, especially the sick.

Today is next, the organizers is opened for veneration on Jan. 30 and Sept. 14, feast of the Holy Cross. On ordinary days, people come to hear Mass in the chapel on Sundays or if it is so.

The chapel is being readied for the Easter Vigil on April 11, which includes rituals such as the Baptism of Fire, processions followed by Mass and blessing of water.

Tarnel signed Sally Maddawa for prepared a tour package that covers round-trip transportation, dinner at Monasterio, hotel accommodation in Tarlac based on twin sharing and buffet breakfast.

Package cost is P1,950 from Old Mapandi package at 12:30 p.m.; and P1,900 from Ilang-Ilang pickup at 1 p.m. For Sally at 0906-2393160 or 0908-5035267.

Basilica of the Holy Relic

Preparations are being made for the consecration of the basilica that will house the Holy Relic of the True Cross of Jesus. When it opened its Archive Corner, in honor of the Invention of the Holy Cross (1892), here this could be done in these hard times, he said. "God will provide."

The guardianship of the Holy Relic was turned over to the IRC by Msgr. Rolfer Heuer of the Diocese of Essen in Germany because occasions in the monastic community that used to guard it are dwindling.

Foundation for priests

The Pedy and Rolando Hamadiol Inc. was organized to establish, develop and promote a viable retirement benefit for priests.

The foundation aims to develop an equitable promotion to the funds contributed by member priests.

Fr. Eugene Hilvera of the Apostolic Vicariate of Puerto Princesa gathered friends to raise funds for retired or ailing priests.

Membership of priests is voluntary. The foundation has set a minimum of P300 a month and a maximum of P800 a month).

In 2007, the board of trustees approved the creation of Club 300 wishes the foundation wherein 300 people will be asked to pledge to give P300 a month.

In return all the priests will say Mass for the intention of the Club. 300 member every First Friday of the month. How to help, please e-mail Fr. Eugene at engenio70@yahoo.com or call (0918) 433-2566.

Blessed Bishop Vuyl

Fr. Manuel Grado was able to visit the shrine of Blessed Bishop Martin Stayl beforehand at St. Joseph Ukrainian Catholic Church in Winnipeg, Canada. Fr. Redemptorist, Blessed Vasyl was among Nicholas Charnetsky and Companion. Martyrs beatified by Pope John Paul II on June 27, 2001.

Born in western Ukraine in 1903, Vasyl joined the Redemptorists in 1924 and was ordained in 1928. At the end of World War II, the Soviets began persecuting the Ukrainian Catholic Church. Fr Vasyl was arrested when he refused to deny his faith. He was sentenced to life by being raped but his sentence was commuted to 18 years in hard labor in Soviet labor camps. He was a tortured victim.

Exiled from Ukraine in 1972, he went to Canada. The next year, on June 30, 1973, he died as a result of tortures he suffered. When his tomb was opened on Sept. 22, 2002, his body was found intact. Miracles have happened through his intercession. For prayers, e-mail frednicarp@mi.net or write to Blessed Bishop Vasyl Shrine at 258 Jefferson Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba R2V

CHAPEL of the Holy Relic of the True Cross in Monasterio de Tarlac

LOUIE CRUZ, from viewers, Erik Cua, "Prince" of Manila nightlife; and Louie Yanael, King of Manila's club scene.

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Barang

From good times to recession . . .

From page 17

lose only certain nights when they do well because the market is too small to fill all those places in one night."

Yanael is regarded as the king of Manila nightlife. He began his career managing clubs and discos in 1999, so he knows how the city's club scene has evolved, running or owning (or both) some of the most popular night haunts in the last three decades: Scorpion, Louie Y's, Euphoria, Stanzia, 9 the—all having had a good run before they finally closed. "The last few years, he's had Music at Greenbelt 2, a fine-dining restaurant and bar.

"We've dropped [overseen] by 20 percent, me and others I've spoken to," he says. "I know that the hotel bars, except for a few, aren't doing as well. ... Music is steady—well, only down a bit—because of the organic. They're not affected; they're paid in euros and dollars ... I'm not affected by expats per se, but by the number of expats who had to leave the country because of the economy."

New bars

Erik Cua, the aggressive entrepreneur behind Embassy Super Club, Temple Bar and the newly-opened Manor in Eastwood City also says sales have been affected the past months by about 10 percent, but says this hasn't seem to do with the timing. "There were times so not a lot of people were going out. But it's graduation time and it's picking up again."

With Yanael and other partners, Cua recently opened the members-only bar lounge called Members Only next to Embassy, where another high-end restaurant-bar lounge called The Establishment also opened just two weeks ago. (See related story, LD)

It's, however, income overall here all these new places will do, Cua says. Right now, they are full "because people are thawking them out." But he believes it would feel down to the "survival of the fittest. The weaker brands will have a harder time because people will choose locals where they want to go). It's more challenging because there are more players."

"I had a very easy time in the last recession because I was the only one [opening clubs]," says Yanael. The formula for a successful joint, he says, hasn't changed since the '80s: "good location, good service and good DJs so you're assured you're getting the right people. You must be consistent. You shouldn't fail because people have many alternatives."

Yanael adds that even places that are initially billed as semi-lounges eventually turn into bars as owners realize "they can't just make money on food," the once wrote in the business that the club business is 95 percent booze and only 5 percent food.

Provocative

Louie Cruz, a main fixture of the night scene since the '70s, presents an even more provocative analysis of how a club succeeds or fails.

"Drugs play a major role," he says. "Which partygoers are taking [because they don't drink alcohol, so you don't sell. They just drink water or juice. Fortune isn't a social drug. You do it alone. You dance on your own to the thump of the music. It's not like marijuana where you want to be close and talk to people, shared on you drink."

With the drugs comes the music, he says. The hit-new dictates the fashion. "If I were a bar owner, I would make sure only 10 percent fantasy wares come to my club," Cruz says, laughing at such a high goal. "Fantasy wears are usually the younger ones... Then there are the mature wears, who have more money. They don't want to mix with fantasy wears because they have a different kind of music. They're different heads... What the right wears does is will insanity, where people can let their hair down and be with their own kind."

Cyberspace may have also helped diminish the party crowd—at least compared to his time, Cruz says. "Going out needs preparations. You dress up and go to a bar to meet someone like you. They're pick-up joints. A bar is the magic, the setup for the scene." With cyberspace, people can meet people without actual face time. "When you meet someone on the Internet, [and] the only time you go out, it's cheaper than going to a bar. I would've done the same had there been cyberspace in my time. But there we had to go out and look for the beast!"

Recorded bars usually have a good cross-section of the market, Cruz notes, citing Quadle, a famous bar-lounge in Makati in the '90s. Boutiques' role, he adds, is to control the mix of guests: 60 percent women, 30 percent men and 10 percent gays. If there are too few women, men leave.

"The economy is not good," Cruz adds with a laugh. "When we're happy, we celebrate and go out. But even when things go bad, we drink. People will always have money to drown their sorrows!"

Photobook on seafarers

A PHOTOBOOK ON READING AND the seafarers, "Bread in Bridge Dreams," will be launched at 2/F, Pavilion Outside the Science Discovery Center), SM Mall of Asia on March 26.

An exhibit of over 50 portraits of personalities from the maritime industry will also be featured alongside the book launching. The photo exhibit will be open to the public (10 a.m.–10 p.m.) until April 2.

Published by the Amazing Images Foundation Inc., the photobook features thoughts on reading by the leaders in the shipping industry as photographed by Shandy Navarro.

Other activities on April 1 are storytelling for seafarers' children by Richie Victoria and Bayanihan's lecture on Performance Lighting.

CAPT. FELIX I. Rabanes, crewing manager, Associated Marine Officers and Seamen's Union of the Philippines

Discover this exciting city with two of your family or friends. Indulge yourself in Hong Kong's playground of shopping sprees galore, tempting international cuisine and scenic escapes, plus a myriad of festive celebrations and city-wide mega events all year round. Whatever you look for in a holiday, you'll find in Hong Kong where non-stop fun and excitement surround you. And you'll enjoy the world-class service of Hong Kong's home airline, plus smooth connections to some 120 destinations worldwide*. Call Cathay Pacific at 757-8888 or log on to www.cathaypacific.ph for more details. For more information on Hong Kong, please visit www.DiscoverHongKong.com.

HONG KONG TOURISM BOARD

CATHAY PACIFIC

Now you're really flying

*Daily flights may vary. **Offer details: 1 Valid in any voucher issue for purchase of every discounted one-month economy class fare. Applicable to flights departing from Manila. 2 Valid from 16 April 2009 to 15 April 2010. 3 Travel period: from 4 to 30 June 2009, except for Easter Travel Period and 12 to 19 April (Hong Kong). 4 Seats is non-refundable, non-changeable and non-refundable. 5 Minimum stay is 5 days. 6 Valid for direct flights and full applicable. 7 Fuel, taxes and surcharges apply. 8 Excluding credit card service charge.

Ballet world loses Mary

Only 20, she was a rising star, cast as Odette in 'Swan Lake' for The Washington Ballet School recital

By Margie C. Rodriguez
Contributor

AT 20, MARY BEATRIZ SALUdares was poised for a brilliant international career as a ballerina. Even in her younger days, choreographers and artistic directors noted her star quality.

She had promise seen on stage last Feb. 20 while Mary was on tour with the Washington Ballet Studio Company in Hartford, Connecticut. After a performance at Harvard College, Salud[illegible] stepped out with friends to grab a bite in a restaurant/tavern.

Walking ahead of her friends, she crossed Route 2A at Edgewood. She was hit by a car driven by a 73 year-old man on green light. She died upon arrival at the hospital.

Disbelief

On Feb. 21, Saturday noon in Manila, Mary's mother, Marina Saludares, 51, got a call from Upper Chinapoodle Hospital.

"At first I was in disbelief. I couldn't breathe and [illegible] the call," she said. She gave the phone to me, Reyna. "After an hour, he declared, 'Mary's gone.' I was in shock for two hours."

Immediately a translator was paid for Reyna's mother so that a relative could be with Mary. The Saludares got help to raise funds to fly Mary's remains back to Manila.

Marina's former high school classmates at College of the Holy Spirit, batch '75, helped, and so did other alumni who reached out to Filipino families in Maryland to hold a [illegible].

Marina's brother, who's based in New York, Richard Reyna, and two other relatives there also helped. The Washington Ballet (TWB) held a tribute to Mary.

Julio Zoleb-Elizalde, director of Hope Dance Studio where Mary had her training, conveyed a chapel at Fordham in San Antonio for the wake. Mary's parents came to coordinate with Mary's family—Jose Julian, their [illegible] Jr., 30, and her two older brothers, Patrick, 29, and Bryan, 27, and mom Marina.

The funeral mass on March 4 paid tribute to the vibrant artist. The Don Bosco Choir and Mary's former classmates at Reyna performed the "Our Father." She was buried at Heritage Park in Taguig.

Memorable

Mary was born on Sept. 6, 1990, the birthday of the Blessed Mother Emily in life, she already displayed natural talent.

"When she was a year old, her first steps were on tiptoe. I thought her feet were deformed. It turned out she was meant to be a dancer," says Marina.

She daughter was also [illegible] independent, even as a child. For instance, she'd tell

Retired but not retarded

By Bart Colegado
Correspondent

IT'S POSSIBLE TO BE THE ONLY one landed by the school banquets in my city Many others people have organized elegant and dishes and have taken at least at the banquets of their spouses, but I am truly landed by what they imply. They are evidence of what I've long suspected but was loathe to admit, that in decisions regarding our own reproductive health, we are hindrained on a daily basis by leaders who think we're too dumb to use the rest, we are bullied as "heroes" by having a country that can't employ us and by propping up a government run down.

And these banquets? Boy, oh boy! They have got to be the clearest evidence of how our leaders think they can substitute sensible governance with a bit of trickle-down.

The other week, I somehow was suckered into attending that he had honored "clean cities" in the awards hovered within the city's purview. I thought, "Golly gee ... French fries will take their breakfast across the border (which by the way is a great law makers among.) In the immediate there are not going to replace that lost income?" Instead of making the politically groundbreaking decision of closing the coal light district to drive off your "second capitalism" without presenting an alternative development plan, here about developing and promoting an economic stimulus plan for the city, Ms. Mayor? Uncover your contributors would appreciate hand on the table more readily than colorful streetlights.

So when's this rant have to do with Dantes cities Dis Is, after all, the lifestyle section? For me, I believe that in our country, which is one of banquets is true of our politics, our religion and our art.

We've been taught and trained to think like children. Nothing complex or deep is worth exploring let her comfortable encapsulation the status quo. Lackluster of thought is the hence-rod to subversion.

When I tell people I work in theater, most of them immediately let assume that I sing, as if musical theater were the only valid theatrical form. Perhaps the only response they've had of the theater was from the school play they once did and which they now watch their children do.

Understandably, it's all dumb play to them. I'm glum up trying to explain to them that I do adult theater—theater that challenges the mind—because when I do, I see that is very glum-worthy and monumental disinterest; I feel like a pleonastic antheap over the doomed formulation of mainstream. So, what the heck, pass the karaoke order here, please!

'The Advise'

I'm doing a one-night report of a show I performed to mark my 25th anniversary in theater. It is a performance piece and writing monologues, which despite its title is not about religion but about rabbinical journalism. I choose the play because it was decidedly adult and its unambiguous format presents a challenge to the audience's perception of what theater should be.

"The Advise" shares the true and full of Augustine Early, a "journalist" who will step at nothing to land a sensational headline, including taking his girlfriend to snare a politician. He is heinous and scheming, but he pitches for the audience's sympathy.

A real challenge to both actor and audience. And why not? Why should entertainment not be challenging? Why should we not think and love our world like adults?

I've been asked if it's true I'm going up the theater for good. Let's put it this way. Our society faces very real problems that need real and immediate solutions, many of which have life or death ramifications. I find no comfort and helpless in a world that others paint the end! I love like child's play so I'm donating—for now—at theater. Maybe I might help in the rescuing of my people.

"The Advise" by Bayan Theatre will have a single performance at Eastern in the Promenade, Granbelle, Greenplan on March 27, at 7:30 p.m. For inquiries, call or text 09228 8072024 or call Habeanson at 8519990.

DO CERREJON. Posing with Gift Jonathan Crook, Banco Ponce Foundation's Zonaida Ramos, George Soros, Raul Suarez and CCP president Nestor Jardin

2 Filipino dance scholars compete in New York

EVERY TWO YEARS, THE NEW York International Ballet Competition invites young dancers from all over the world to meet in a comprehensive application, which includes a DVD of three dancing classical ballet solos and pas de deux. Out of the numerous applications, only 24 pairs are chosen to participate.

This year, Frederick Rosse and Jacob Arcadio, both students of Academy One Music and Dance Center in Pasonanca, were chosen.

Arcadio and Rosse are both promising dancers. Both were recipients of the special awards for best female and male performer in the ABBF Cup ballet competition in Cebu City 2008. Both were also recipients of a full scholarship to the International Summer Dance School in Hong Kong in 2008. She has also received numerous trophies of distinction for the Royal Academy of Dance Intermediate and Advanced 1 examinations.

Rosse is now a second last year by Christine Webb of the matriculation Conservatoire of Ballet to guest in the school's performances.

NYIBC's unique format distinguishes it from all other international ballet competitions. It is only after the dancers arrive in New York that they learn the repertoire they will be studying. All the dancers learn the repertoire under the same teachers and receive under the same conditions. The experience allows dancers to expand educationally and artistically.

NYIBC begins with two weeks of technique classes and the learning and rehearsing of two classical pas de deux and one contemporary pas de deux. Packed sessions teachers and coaches teach the repertoire.

The study program is completed on the third week when dancers showcase their talents by performing the learned repertoire at Lincoln Center. After each round, the dancers with the highest scores are advanced.

This year, the NYIBC jury will include Tata Beatriz Cisneros, Julio Bocca (Argentina), Nanette Glorbik (USA), Ilze Mik Gai (Greece), Mikko Nissinen (Finland), Simone Perrotti (Australia) and Ashley Wheater (United Kingdom). The 10th NYIBC will give tribute to Dancer D'arcy over the last the long service to dance.

Since the first NYIBC in 1994, more than half of the participants have been offered contracts with major national and international companies.

FREDERICK Rosse and Jacob Arcadio

3 artists' album of love

VARIOUS LOVE MELODIES," A MUsical collaboration of three Filipino artists, had its soft launch this week, hosted by Zenaida Bautista of the Tuason-Bautista Foundation and Francisco Bautista, general manager Jonathan Crook, at the Consulate of the Philippines.

The double-CD project, which will be launched at the Cultural Center of the Philippines on March 26, compiles contemporary songs of Bernie Suson as interpreted by pop singer turned balladeer Ric Cruz de Guzman (formerly known as Rodric Cruz) in one CD, and so many by acclaimed pianist Noel Zaens in the other.

COVER art of "Many Love Remains" CD

Since, when unsure in choice being a composer, actor, TV and sound producer and arranger, his written songs for the likes of Pilita Corales and the internationally known group, The Platters. In 2002, he founded the Temple of Fewer, Power and Prosperity in 1999, he was enthroned a spiritual minister in the United States.

Bautista, dean of the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music, is a well-known concert pianist and composer-arranger who has recorded 30 CDs and cassettes, including 13 volumes of Filipino folk songs.

Gerardo is a known performing artist for the past 22 years. He was classically trained at the UST Conservatory of Music by Vitale Love Fernandez," he sings Bautista's English, Spanish and Tagalog compositions, as arranged by Noel Zaens.

V. Mapa celebrates diamond jubilee

The diamond jubilee committee members of V. Mapa High School batch 1984 are excited to participate in the ongoing diamond jubilee celebrations. Members of Batch '84 attended the grand reunion and annual homecoming of V. Mapa High School (formerly Manila Evening High School) held recently at Alvarado Elementary School corner Dimasalang Road, Sampaloc, Manila.

Batch '84 is also set to hold its own reunion on April 4 at the Ballroom, 2/F, Robinsons Galleria, cor. EDSA and Ortigas Avenue, Quezon City, instead of the earlier announced Quezon City Hall Grand Ballroom.

For more information, please call Jewel Lumbres at 0927-5272041 or e-mail her at jewel_lumbres@yahoo.com.

V. MAPA High School batch 1984

Fashion show

DIGERY fashion models and fashion lovers can showcase PYEPPY's summer collection today at 2/F Sunward Hotel, Festival Supermall, Alabang. Call 8520114.

Hotel promo

Discovery Suites offers 1+1 promotion for its call residents until March 31. For P8,888, guests will enjoy overnight accommodations in any of its Studio Suite. The package includes complimentary breakfast for two at the hotel's Bistro Uno, and a two-minute shoulder massage upon check-in by expert therapists from Tess Wellness Spa. Throughout their stay, guests may also take advantage of the 40 percent discount on selected beauty treatments from Tess Wellness Spa. Discovery Suites is in the bustling Ortigas business district. Call 6916166, 6916000, 6908222 or e-mail reservations@discoverysuites.com.

Story-writing contest

The Big Book Storywriting Contest (one unit) for 9 to 12 years old and 13 to 17 years old. Entries must be stories written in English and restricted to children aged 9 to 12 years. The theme must be something that we have families—especially those in—celebrate with, especially those whose fathers are mostly away at sea, and preferably promote positive human values. The word count must be 1,000 words or less, and the plot and sequence must be capable of sustaining a 28-page illustrated book. For the complete official contest rules go to pgbookcontest.blogspot.com. E-mail pgbookcontest@gmail.com.

Bazaar for regional traders

Manila Bridal Making Company invites fashion to showcase the best products from their regions in One Trade. One Product Campaign at Atrium Fiesta Shoppers Bazaar, scheduled to run April 23-26. Call 8922048 or 0919-5004888.

Mall sale, activities

Shermall presents a five-day sale on March 27-31. On March 28, all female group members will have a mall tour in Shermall Alabang, while the 1st Gymplex Procompetition will be at the activity area of Shermall Extra-Floor. Meet

WHAT'S UP

Pillas, and April 3-4, 1-5 p.m. at the function room of Shermall Alabang. Grand finals is on May 9 at the garden mezzanine of Shermall Alabang. Call 8452251, 7150487, 8452151 or 8728888.

Travel writing workshop

On March 30 (9-5 p.m.), join the Filipino Heritage Library's Travel Writing seminar, under award-winning writer Tess Sterling. It comes with a free tour to the Intramuros Museum of the Philippine Red Cross, Fort Santiago and Casa Manila. The workshop is designed for beginners and those with some experience in travel writing. Participants of this unique activity will be limited to a total of the following places. Only for P.E. Gallery Café, Zambo Ortega's Workshop, Upa Bagyan, and Manila Galleri. Pillar Manila and Intramuros. Call 8911929 (or) 0917-8994857, or e-mail heritage.philippines@yahoo.com.

Sailing weekend

The 3rd Family Boatbuilding and Learn to Sail Weekend is on April 4-5 at Tali Lake Yacht Club in Talisay, Batangas, organized by the Philippine Home Boatbuilders Club (PHBC). Registration is open for families and individuals and build boats from precut kits with instruction and assistance from volunteers.

Ballet world loses Mary

From page B1

the school guard to stop the van so that could cross the street easy without an adult guide.

At six, Mary began training at Dance Dimen Studio, following the Bagshot style (the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) syllabus. She considered Rosa Sosa and Stella as the most influential mentors in her life.

Gifted with long proportions, large expressive eyes, fluid arms and a well-rounded technique, Mary always stood out. As a musician, under the Conservatory of the Philippines, she also got a full scholarship at Imam.

Soon awarded then in the National Music Competition for Young Artists in 2004, Mary joined her mother, had "the eye-to-eye" in gold and never obtained a gold medal was promised. In the studio, she would tease involved and never disappointed. Mary was always calm."

With hard work and determination, she won the Isaac Ashanti Award for promising dancers.

After getting high merits in the toughest and strictest level of RAD, the Isle-Send, Mary became the first Filipina to represent the country in the Adeline Genee competition in 2006, a contest among the best of the best RAD-trained dancers. Her competitors were a typical preschool work by Pari Ng, brought people to tears. However, the competition was just too strict, although many judges felt Mary should have at least made it to the finals.

Breakthrough

With her ideal physique and physical eloquence, she got a summer dance scholarship at the school of American Ballet, Ballet in New York, she joined auditions and was accepted at the Singapore Dance Kennedy School of Ballet and Alvin Ailey Dance Company.

The Ashley Ballet and Ballet Met Columbus offered her the pre-professional program. Many chose. The Washington Ballet, which provided the best package.

In fall of 2006, Mary flew to Washington D.C., took a train and hopped on a cab which took her to her flat. The next day she took her classes at TWB's school. She had a normal life—getting a part-time job at the school reception desk, taking classes and rehearsing into the evening. She and her mother chatted every day.

Many was cast as Odette in "Swan Lake" during the TWB School recital. TWB artistic director Septime Webre was awed by her multifaceted talent. Eventually she got a role in the Studio Company, TWB's junior group.

The show was about four aging cohort singer reminiscing their lost years. During rehearsals, the original lead dancer did not want to perform. The night before the show, Mary was cast in lead and quickly learned her classes. On opening night, the audience gave her a standing ovation.

Mary also performed with TWB, enjoying her 1st role as the bunny in "The Nutcracker" and in "Highland Fling," a series of ballets with a Scottish theme she was performed at the Kennedy Performing Arts Center a week before the tragedy.

At the Bowen Mary, it wasn't just Mary's audiences that people remember. Friends and colleagues almost admired her family as well for calmly accepting the tragedy.

Marissa quotes Fr. Jolyn Sosaya and Fr. Jun Lorcan as saying that Mary may have had a short life, but it was the quality that counts. "If God thought only her school she did with her life, she would have a long list. Her mission was already accomplished."

RESURREC-CION-FUENTES

Lawyer **Ric T. Resurreccion** and teacher **Lemar Sol-cuerdo Fuentes** of Bangar, Abra, are tying the knot on March 21, 9 a.m., at Saint John the Baptist Cathedral, Baliw-bo, Abra. Parentprino will immediately follow at the Immaculate Conception Shrine, New Barrang, Baliw-bo, Abra. Patricia will wear a Bonnaccio-inspired gown with pearls created by **Gene Ric B. Gamal** of Baliw-bo, Abra, and New York City.

TALUSAN-CARIO

Carmen **Cano**, daughter of **Daniel** and **Amor Cano**, wed **Patrick Jason Talusan**, son of **Romeo Ardoza**, on March 10 at the Chapel of St. Francis, Interville Subdivision, QC.

Eric Pineda designed the bride's gown in ivory Mikado Silk. It has an empire cut bodice with a sari shoulder strap embellished with French lace, bibb, seed pearls and rhinestones. The double-layered train in silk gazar is trimmed with iridescent cording beads. A double-width veil of illusion with bridal lace is secured by Swarovski crystal pins completes the ensemble. Reception will follow at the Courtyard of Promenade Gardens, Interville, Quezon City.

Milestones

We welcome announcement of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown. If any, to the Inquirer, P.O. Box 2032 Makati Central Post Office, 1264 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at the discretion of the editors.

MITMUG-BIHAR

Lawyer **Raoul Y. Mitmug Jr.**, son of Raoul S. Mitmug and Norjanah Estrellita Yap-Mitmug, wed lawyer **Bai Ashirlla Ayman A. Bihar**, daughter of **Abdul Gani G. Bihar** and **Bai Jamira Alonto-Bihar**, at Shariff Kabunsuan Cultural Complex, Isyan Compound, Cotabato City. Gown designer was **Pepe Quiles** of Greenhaven Bay.

GERODIAS-LOPEZ

Sharon Lopez, daughter of **Rubicon** and **Digna Lopez**, and **Paul Harvey Gerodias**, son of **Teresita Nu** and **Angelito Gerodias**, tied the nuptial knot on Dec. 30, 2008, in Christina then at the Crescent Palace, CCP Complex, Pasay City.

Eric Pineda designed the bride's gown in ivory charmeuse silks. The strapless bodice was inlaid with handmade silk "lily of the valley" sprigs and crystals. The bodice didn't use much of small pleat layers of illusion tulle scattered with beaded French lace and lily buds. A corresponding roll of double-width illusion tulle held by floral-shaped Swarovski crystal pins completed the ensemble.

HERROGINO DEBUT

His Mommy Roy "Tilda" M. Herrogino, daughter of Virgilio Herrogino and **Chonia Monsanto**, recently celebrated her 30th birthday at The Glass Garden, 257 Evangelista St., Kamuning, Pasig City. Tilda is a second year nursing student at the Ateneo City Medical Center. In the photo are her parents Mr. and Mrs. Herrogino, siblings Mark Herrogino and Nicolas Kate.

RUBIO DEBUT

Lualeine E. Rubio, daughter of lawyer **Luis S. Rubio Jr.** and Magnolia **R. Rubio**, recently celebrated her birthday at Rubio's Base, Barangay 1, Alegarog, Rubio-Bocot Norte.

HILLARE-ROSO DEBUT

Jeyanlyn Hillarenos, a 2nd-year Technology sophomore student of the University of Santo Tomas, and an daughter of Capt. **Jaime** and Dr. **Caridad Hillarenos**, will celebrate her 20th birthday at the Ilang-ilang room of Sofitel Philippine Plaza Hotel on March 20. Elegant Bows Specialist will coordinate the event, with the theme "In-by-white Night." She will wear a crystalline beadwork gown designed by **Ernest Aurora**.

Lucky them!

Winners of ₱100,000

Ronnie Llobrera

• Josephine S. Abogador •

Lorna M. Marasigan

Winners of ₱10,000

Winners of ₱5,000

Partial list of cash winners as of March 7, 2009. More cash winners shall be announced.

Plus millions of Lucky winners of Jollibee treats and discount coupons.

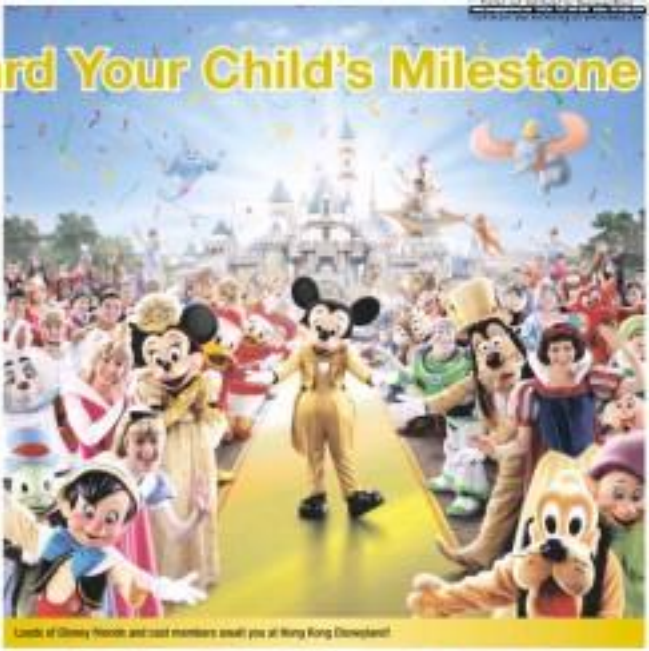
You can be the next LUCKY winner!

Per DOH-BFAD Permit Number 0412 Series of 2008

MTMPROTTON

Reward Your Child's Milestone

CELEBRATE YOUR CHILD'S graduation by treating them to a special fun-filled summer holiday! The **Hong Kong Disneyland Star Guest Program**, from **March 6 to May 31, 2009**, gives families a chance to give their children a special gift of experiencing the wonderful rides and fantastic shows at Hong Kong Disneyland with the bonus of being the Star!



Loads of Disney friends and cast members await you at Hong Kong Disneyland!

MEMORABLE MOMENTS BEGIN WITH A STAR GUEST BADGE

To transform your kid into a Star Guest for the day, simply visit Hong Kong Disneyland ticket booths at the Park Entrance or City Hall, Main Street USA for a "Star Guest Badge." This designation will elevate their experience and signal the start of a day filled with magical moments.

At every turn, the Disney cast is ready to make your VIP the center of attention. Imagine being selected as the day's Grand Marshall leading the "Disney on Parade" and waving to all the guests along the parade route. You'll have the privilege of selecting your favorite colored car at Autopia or becoming an honorary Space Ranger on Buzz Lightyear Astro Blasters. The Star Guest Certificate is yours to take home, along with memories to cherish for all time.

UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES TO LAST A LIFETIME!

For an even more memorable visit at Hong Kong Disneyland, be sure to take advantage of the all-new and exclusive Star Experiences.

Get fixed eye marks and greet the talented cast members in style!

Indulge in delicious foods and be captivated by the fireworks display.

Star Pass

Add a "Star Pass" booklet to your Theme Park admission and receive star treatment, such as priority entrance and special seating privileges at our theater shows, "The Golden Mickeys," "Festival of the Lion King" and "Mickey's PhilharMagic" and selected attractions such as Space Mountain, The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh, and Buzz Lightyear Astro Blasters!

Meet Disney friends as you tour around the Park.

Star Tour

Discover all the delights of Hong Kong Disneyland on a two-hour personalized tour of the Park. The tour is tailor-made specifically for your VIP guest and their family. What's more, this tour comes complete with a private meet-and-greet session with two Disney friends.

Star Finale

The best way to end your special day is with a special Star Finale experience. You'll be serenaded by the Disney quartet before being dazzled by the spectacular "Disney In the Stars" fireworks display. All while you enjoy delectable hors d'oeuvres, sumptuous desserts and a signature magical star refreshment.

So what are you waiting for? Walk through the magical world of Hong Kong Disneyland and experience a shining holiday with your Star Guest! For more information, please visit www.hongkongdisneyland.com

Terms and Conditions:

1. The Star Pass, Star Tour and Star Finale are available as an additional purchase on top of regular Park admission ticket price.
2. Star Guest Badge, Star Pass, Star Tour and Star Finale are subject to availability.
3. Please call (852) 3550 8300 for booking Star Pass, Star Tour and Star Finale.

Who's Your VIP?

Disneyland

Event Period: March 6 to May 31

BOOK NOW!

3D2N Hong Kong Package:
- FREE Hong Kong Disneyland Tour
- 2-Night stay at City Hotel
- HK City Tour

US$75

3D2N Hong Kong Disneyland Package:
- 1-Night stay at Disney's Hollywood Hotel
- 1-Night stay at City Hotel
- Stay & Play for 2 Days park ticket
- HK City Tour

US$159

Available through the following agents:

Ark Travel Express, Inc. - 856199 • Kajah Travel Corporation - 521880 • Skytrel Travel Corporation - 3000309 Happy Sun Travel & Tours, Inc. - 3361998 • Sparkle Holidays & Travel Corporation - 3037351

Book through Hong Kong Disneyland's contracted agencies and get your "A Thousand Kisses from Hong Kong Disneyland" to explore The Happiest Place On Earth at superb value!

Hong Kong Disneyland Travel Providers Won't Travel

Terms and Conditions apply.

Sunday LIFESTYLE Relationships

How and why I stopped being a serial dater

By David Hogent
Contributor

I STARTED THINKING about summer and summer romances this past weekend when, on a flight back from Boracay, a dear friend wanted to go over the last page of Vanity Fair. It's the one-page questionnaire based on the old Proust Q&A about life, love and the fundamental questions of happiness.

The questionnaire actually goes back pretty far. Apparently the Victorians loved answering endless questions about what they desired, particularly about romance. And in thinking about the Victorians, undoubtedly among the most puritanical, repressed yet romantic of peoples, I got to thinking about romance, Philippine-style.

We Filipinos are funny about romance. It's really a dance, and for most folk, a dance the whole clan, barkada and barangay get involved in. People say gossip is our national pastime. I disagree; we've simply a people in love with love. That goes even for those of us who aren't in love with anyone!

I'm the last person to assume to be authoritative about romance. The best thing I've done with most of my relationships is see them end, with a fundamental reason—I was in relationships for so many years and with so many folks for all the wrong reasons.

I eventually stopped being a serial dater. It's important to sit back, take stock, and do the work you need to if you want to stop having failed relationships and start having great ones. No matter if they last only a weekend, a summer, or the rest of your life.

Looking back, I realize some of the biggest mistakes I've made are those that many others make, too.

Escape

The biggest mistake? Getting into a relationship just for the heck of it. Or to escape a family situation, or a family, or yourself. You can be for any reason.

A relationship isn't an escape. Never get into it unless it's for the most basic reason—because you love and respect that person.

And never expect that love and respect go hand in hand. Sometimes, they don't. I've loved people I didn't respect all that much, and I've respected some I mustn't in love with.

I learned that one has to do more than adore the person you're with. You must admire him or her as well. I think it's important to keep in mind that neither love nor respect should be given too easily. Proving love and earning respect take time and patience.

Mr. Filipinos are often suckers for giving our vows would away when we meet the dominant new person around. Remember, real love and respect take time. When someone doesn't have either for you, he or she is not worth yours.

Hot—love—thoughts for summer

Paranoia

Another big mistake I had was using my partner as paranoia for not having dealt with personal issues I should have resolved before getting into any relationship. In the Philippines, we spend a huge amount of time not dealing with our issues, whether they involve parents, siblings or ourselves.

Here's a suggestion: Before you fall in love—even before you think you're falling—take a breather and call a shrink. We're a people who should have a national therapy conversation. The most important relationship you should ensure is with yourself first.

Unless you fix what is inside, no other person, no matter how wonderful he or she may be, will be able to do it for you.

A uniquely Filipino situation is that we often choose our partners based on what our families, friends and barkada like. You might think you've chosen a partner. But, luckily, you will be dating his or her friends, family, past partners, wives and chosen buddies—basically everyone in the other person's life.

And they'll know all about your life together. And it's frequently a disaster. It's never just the two of you against the world.

Social position

So what to do? Fall in love with whomever you want to. Be brave. Guess, ask that girl or that guy out who doesn't fall in your class. Maybe he or she didn't attend your school, or read the same books. Maybe it's not his or her English that's so hot, but your Tagalog that needs a little work (I know mine does).

It'll be ok; you'll grow because you've expanded not just your social circle, but also your heart and mind. I find that people so preoccupied with their social position are usually those who aren't classy. Real class isn't about hook right or membership, it's about behavior. The Golden Rule is what begets a classy person.

Another important lesson, this time for the gay guy and straight girl readers. Remember, you guys will never be more than just friends. So don't take the other for more than what he or she isn't. Share clothes, share lives, but when it comes to love, you can love each other but should not be in love with the other.

I've seen time and again how the straight girl falls in love with the gay guy and it's not fair to both.

Thinking about all these lessons hasn't earned me all love, it's just given me a (hopefully!) smarter perspective. And it brings me back to the original Proust Questionnaire.

When asked his favorite occupation, Proust said (way back in 1890): "Being in love."

He could have been a Filipino.

Have a graphic and bright summer

Hip and Hot Picks

A high-fi for Gloriett

By Pan Pacio

ve
ta 5

There are great values left and right at Glorietta 5

Shopping haven

If you want to shop until you drop then head no further than Glorietta 5, where there are fashion boutiques galore

CONFETTI: A must for ponytails across Metro all day long, these candy-colored bands are also comfortable.

SO FAB: Our little heels, a must – spring, sunny evenings, colorful sandals that are easy on the feet as well as the pocket.

SCHUH: For perfect summer days – one attention you'll see at the beach or the city.

LYDECA: These easy dresses help you get through hot summer days with a chic breeze.

DNG STUDIO: Jewelry: Finish your wardrobe with classic pieces.

MILLEN: Affordable casual chic with plenty of accessories for the busy lives.

ZALORA: Hip, flashy floral and flyaway tops update your after-work basics for a summer get-up.

WITH luxury watches, one can definitely enjoy a good read.

FEATURED titles are always something to look forward to.

GOOD "fashion finds" are not just about clothes but also in books.

BEST-SELLING author, Bebot Kiyosaki's latest work can also be found here.

NBS Glorietta 5 branch is also a one-stop shop for the coolest travel books.

A NEW store that can excite the senses

National Book Store

WHEN ONE VISITS NATIONAL BOOK Store's newest branch at Glorietta 5, one easily feels at home with the place. The store's vibe has given it a young, hip and laid-back vibe. Surrendering this modern, well-lit haven for books, one can instantly check out their signature red shelf that features the new book titles and best sellers at first glance. The ground floor area offers greeting cards, subscription and money services, your everyday school and office needs. Also available soon by catering are your basic office supplies such as fax machines, photocopier machines, and the like.

Ascend to the second floor and you will be amazed that the books are conveniently organized by category – from cookbooks by the great chefs to fashion, travel, and architecture appreciation reads. A visual treat, the store's newest titles from all genres (cookbooks, travel, fashion, the arts and even graphic novels) are suited for every Filipino lifestyle. There is also a listening station, a nook that offers the latest and latest selection of dvds and cds. The architecture in-house ambient music coupled with the friendly and accommodating staff ensure a relaxing and pleasurable in-store browsing and reading experience.

NATIONAL Book Store's latest outlet includes a huge range of graphic novels and books.

A century of Futurism ,- visual concerts In 32 European and Asian cities

Tinto Fue – Fue Chicken! – served with a delicious filling of boil-beatings with whipped cream – is one of the notorious dishes from the Futurist Cookbook being brought to life by the Ludwigshaven composer Bettina Ascher with his ensemble BC_LOADING_RA, an amusement-stabilizer post performance on the occasion of the ninth anniversary of the Futurist Manifesto. Under the leadership of the Italian actor Enzo Favoni, the ensemble will serve visual and also-alive every dish in Filippo Tommaso Marinetti's Futurist Cookbook of 43 treatments in Europe and Asia, each occasion a unique event apart of the 32 menus will be composed specially for the place or occasion, and performed once only. Rhythm, Asian odor, with PRELUDE PICTURE, develops slowly alone all at the point of main, sardine hammer moon and visualizer, is open-ing the FUTURISTIC SHOT!

FOOD TURISMO in Paris, Marseille, Rome, Buda-Lampur, Mbeki, Jakarta, Pisa, Breslau, Bratislava, Bucharest, London, Berlin, Cologne and other places. The kickoff offer to holistic culinary voyage of discovery is a gar-ance on the cultural radio station WDR 3 on 100 MHz only in which the listeners will be fed audio-waves, among other things.

As an added, cultural of an unusual sort, there will be an answer-smile, something to tickle the ear rather than the palate. The focus of the performance will be the table, which will be first discovered, denied to and abused, flooded with light and noise (or perhaps, on-the-instrument) of their purse – as a shocking sound installation. Hannah Arendt says: "The fo-ter of recipes consist of tolerance, speed, me-chanics and cleanliness, and will be enjoyed even hotter than they are served." The public will get all sorts of things except food – there is enough food in the world this period.

The **DONAUFESTWOCHE** (duration 2 ma-) runs by Marinetti, grooms the world cultural visitors in the "edible", and noticed composes its dishes according to purely aesthetic points of view in the sense of the Futurists. It wants also the most fundamental purpose of physical in-gestion – feeding, instead of a feeling of fulness, to pure artistic enjoyment. Incidentally, it consistently advocates the abolition of pasta.

FISCHER, ERT – Ungarisch composer, performer and installation artist – operates at the point of intersection of music, musical theatre, visual art and installation. Straddling the genres, he encompasses by his work ever for musical, theatrical and pictorial elements. His opera MONSIEUR ANNIBERS (MARO NONNBELL, responsible the Hund for Experimental Music Theatre, had its premiere in 2006 in the Hagen Theatre – "a most interesting and challenging event, which does how exciting experimental musical theatre can be" (Opernwelt Opernwelt "Opernwelt").

At his "play 47" of the Cologne Turbofer in 2007, which was the prize for composition at the Cologne Music Triennale, the individual cubicles occupied by musicians were connected to a sound college. In his "12 German Electricity Ordinance" in 2006, the musicians played 127 electrical implements, such as remotely, foliage vacuum cleaners, blenders, toasters or mixers, at full orchestral volume. Since the subterranean airport in Bergkamen ("Airport Bergkamen (2007)"), a prize-winning light and sound installation planned to run over 15 years, Bottino duo has been regarded as an airport on virtual air travel. He plies myths on neighbors. (Kate Dance, Dance, Kate the sound of steam from Turkish baths (received 2007), recreates the former living conditions at Hitler's bunker (Bunker, 2007), or listens to trees (Baumlied, 2005). In Cologne he renders possible free entry into paradise (2007) or runs the World Cup for music-driven spaceboats (2006).

Further information under www.schnebel.de

She wants to stop supporting her mom and stepdad

DEAR EMILY,

I am married to a German, with no child and living abroad. Though I have two diplomas, I am working here in Babymoon and occasionally choosing vacancy. I am not ashamed of the work I do.

Though we live simply and my husband can very well support me, I work so I can send four percent to school and give monthly support to my mother. Once a year, there is a birthdayness because, for everyone. My husband has nothing against it because that's my concurrency.

My mother is my problem. It took me half a year to find out that she had married her fourth partner of 11 years. This guy has no job, never intended to find one and is so lazy. My mother is in her mid-60s, he's in his mid-40s.

When I came home last year, I felt my mother wasn't even happy to see me because I couldn't give her a lump sum before I left. My own, my heartbreaking because all she did was ask for money. I also heard that she has been lucky nothing me because she's

EMILY'S POST

FAMILY

A. Marcelo

unlike other parents who are "fully supported" by their children who are based abroad. My relations are nonexistent that my kan-ganak and I don't even own a house abroad.

Since I got back, I haven't written or talked to her because I know she'll only start talking about money. Though she still gets her monthly support, I really want to cut it off so I can use her husband to find work. But my mother is old and uneducated and that might make her life harder. What will she wake up? Am I being a bad daughter?

—Troubled Daughter Abroad

It is important in many people's minds that being abroad is finding the land of "milk and honey." They think that those who choose their parents with huge allowances make piles of money. You're not one of the lucky few, and your mother is having difficulty reconciling that. Aren't you guilty to blame for her disappointment? Are you a bad daughter? Yes and no.

At the outset, you should have given them an accurate picture of your life abroad. You should have told them explicitly how you work like a house to send your money to school and give your mother's allowance. They should know that yours is also a household economy. You don't own such a house. How is that for a reality check?

There are your parents. You cannot just choose your life to cheat, and you will not be there forever. Start shaping up your life and solution in the money that suit you. Don't you realize how short life is?

E-mail the author at emilyblaptiste@yahoo.com, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to be sent. Log on to www.philgirl.net and listen to Ely Mercado on her show program "Kabuhayan Pilipinas," 7:15-8:00 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.

Mall supports kids' and environment groups

AYALA MALLS REDUTERS recently promoted education from their recent Christmas Shopping Bag Promo to partner charity organizations WWF-WORLD Fund (WWF), Children's Hour and Center of Excellence in Public Elementary Education (CEMTEO).

Ayala Malls continues to raise awareness about a greater environment and quality education for the underprivileged by providing social involvement among its loyal customers and patrons. By participating in the Christmas Shopping Bag promo, shoppers not only helped reduce the large volume of plastic bags and unnecessary waste, but also a certain amount of re-cripts with no additional fee also enabled shoppers to claim their Christmas shopping bags, proceeds of which benefited the charities supported by the Ayala Malls.

As the largest multinational conservation organization in the world, WWF closely focuses on the conservation of nature and climate change. Children's Hour is a fund-raising and green group organization that urges individuals, employees and corporations to donate at least one hour of their earnings once a year to fund projects committed to promote the welfare of the Filipino children.

A model public school boasting environmental, CEMTEO aims to achieve true democracy by creating a level field of opportunity for bright children from under-resourced families to receive quality education. CEMTEO has two schools located in Tondo, Manila and Bacoor, Batangas.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

I was a frustrated quiz bee queen

LIFE IS ALL ABOUT EMbracing fears, conquering challenges and fulfilling dreams. We may not be able to achieve these all at one time but it's the little triumphs that make life much sweeter.

One of my fears as a child was spelling. I remember having to spell the word "tomorrow" and misspelling it in front of the class. That memory flashed back as I watched the musical comedy "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" at the Cultus @ Bonifacio Auditorium, BGHC Plaza, Makati, recently.

Atlantis Productions kicks off its 15th anniversary season with the Tony award-winning musical comedy "Spelling Bee," which runs until

TESSA! *Tessa Prieto-Valdes*

Atlantis' production of 'Spelling Bee' relives my childhood trauma when I misspelled 'tomorrow' before the class

BONDED Vice SYMMAN Ordonez, Hope Sison, Tara Alcaraz, Pixie Rosete, Jessica Chua-Mejico, Joyce Arbon, Jocelyn Perez, Rukel Ferrer, Jenny Cinco, Diggy Dee and Ramona Mitchell get the Viva sign to signify their undying love for life and art.

TOP MODEL Luke Jabalde, Diggy Dee, Jenny Cinco, model and host Phoemela Baranda, photographer Mark Medina, Gov. Lilia Villaluz etc. enjoy some laughter and fashion love Divine Lee, TV actress and beauty queen Carmen Aguilar

SURGING event partners and brideas. TV actress Dawn Cruz and fashion designer Rivek Ediz

I was a frustrated quiz bee queen

Turn to page 87

CHEESY Miguel, Louie Pascual and Nicole Jacinto

April 6. It is a fabulous tale of overachievin' angst, in its affectionate tilt for the spelling championship of a lifetime. Call 8925378 or 8404.107 for tickets.

As a cool twist, each night two volunteer audience members and celebrity guest spellers will be invited to join the stellar cast of Joel Trinidad, Cathy Antonia Dy and Guillermo Lorenzo Lobregat. Host Bobby Guerrero has asked me to be guest speller. Yikes! This is really not for me. Fave designer friend Rajo Laurel has agreed to enhance his chest and conquer his challenge of being on stage. I will have to watch that show to see if he can spell "transverse."

ALLEN Mendoza and Penninapper CEO Albert Ong

STYLEBIBLE'S Nikki Santiago

Bike festival

Speaking of challenges, my latest is biking. On April 2-3, the 7th Terry Lavendia Bike Festival (TLBF) kicks off in Iloilo. The TLBF is a unique 15-race bike-athon, featuring mountain bike cross country, dual slalom, etc., and this year, a standard distance triathlon. Everyone who likes to have fun between his legs will be there. See www.tlbf.org or call 0917.2173 for details.

Of course, this also means a visit to Bike Town Cyclery, where I had myself custom-fitted for a new pink bike. I had no idea that designer bikes can cost as much as designer bags and shoes!

The TLBF is the biggest biking promotional event in the country possibly in Asia. It was started by the friends of Terry Lavendia, principally his son Enzo, with a two-race circuit in 2003 and it has grown steadily since.

Pilihan, the country's biggest bike store, will display their latest models as well. For kids, there will be mountain, fun rides, sight rides and cruiser bike fitting. Miss Boy of Bicycle & Life Chantry will pass out to their programs to give away bikes to the less fortunate. TLBF is sponsored by Bike Town Cyclery, Gatorade, Jagermeister, etc. Rudy Project and Smart Communications, as well as Inquirer.net and Yehey.com.

To prepare for the TLBF triathlon, I've reserved training with Ironman Resident Atal de Leon for the 1.5K swim, 40K bike and 10K run event. One of my dreams is to have my stamina combined with the curves of Angelina Jolie. The former is achievable but the latter might only be entertained with the magic of Photoshop.

Never one to shy away from the genius of a master, plus I figure who you technically create an image of you're real drama.

PARTY PR Cassy Mercs and Mia Reyes

FINISHING game: Ian King and Jerry Pascual

MVP winners Amanda Carpio, Bea Lucas, Nia Alonso and Ashes Torres at Powerpuff

CELEBRATING the invigorating Viva Life. Diggy Dee stays oh-so-luxe Mark Medina, Jenny Cinco along with Monna Flanagan, Diwata Philippines' president, Jose Mendiola Manila, group account director Jem Gregorio, account directors and Rukel Ferrer

REMEMBRANCE shine. Photos of Mark Nicdao's "Alive" exhibit, ensconced along the Esmeralda I Fashion Walk

"SPELLING Bee" panelists Rajo Laurel, Sea Princess, Raymond Isaac, Melo Espiritu and JC Buenaflor

FRIENDS of Atlantic Ramon Aguirre, Derek Bobby Garcia, Jennifer Medina, Hindu Bito and Dee Dee Aguirre

KEEPING up with the Bam of life. Renowned actor Richard Gomez

array of cocktails and food whilst roaming the arrival of summer.

Penthouse's Summer 2009 Collection is all about fun and bright colors, ranging from resort-preppy to biker vibe looks. Donning these swimwears were the fresh-new faces of Penthouse: Ben Soriano, JC Tiuseco, Matteo Guidicelli, Mathieu Sheka, Gideon Hemmell and Victor Basa. Check out the bright colors of summer in all the Penthouse boutiques nationwide. Their clothes will make you feel 10 years younger.

To top off the evening, we headed to Aquaknox Restaurant for some Thirsh Long Cock. This Hermanson crab recipe that became famous amongst San Fernandino tourist. Plans is now to local, thanks to Emmap Nicasio and Nathaniel Montes, two entrepreneurs who started Aquaknox. Check out the restaurant at 666 Arnaiz Ave., near Investindo St. in Makati, or call 3798628 for reservations.

Just imagine if we could eat all we want and bike all we like and still look good enough to be in photo exhibits. Would life still have challenges?

E-mail the author at inquirercom@inquirer.com.ph

MODERN Asian interiors of Aquaknox Restaurant

CLAM Rang Mool Na Aquaknox Cooked A Chef Danny's Shrimp Fried Rice

VIVA drinkers Richard Tia, Leira Carpio and Kristine Dy of Lancome

AQUAKNOX gurus Raja Laurel, Malu Sandoval, Grace Poe-Llamanzares and Jeff Sumcad

AQUAKNOX Restaurant owners Rosalina Pluma and Danny Yu

"BEE" quillers Carla Quimvara-Gallentes and Pelo Rivera

SUBSCRIBE TO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
FOR ONLY
P18 per copy
Call
896-6000

The Journey Experience at SM MOA

What does it take to get people to come to a concert?

1. Location! Location! Location! One of the world's largest malls and now a favorite concert destination prepared for this moment. With 'dirt' aplenty, a team of experts in crowd operations and traffic management, customers are assured of a great concert experience and unparalleled convenience.

2. The Experience! An outstanding rendition of memories of the past, that comes along with reuniting with old friends and feelings while enjoying the band that people followed and sang their hearts out.

3. The Music! And in this case, Jonas Pineda, no less a fellow Filipino. Yourning Journey - a band that does not need any sort of introduction. Arnel, being the band's new face, has injected a lot of renewed energy and spirit to Journey's timeless music that spans two decades.

Thousands gathered at the SM Mall of Asia open concert grounds to this once-in-a-lifetime experience, for a band that has captured the ears and hearts of many. People of all ages, from all walks of life, connected by means of music, sang in unison. It was a great show - something that was worth watching, and perhaps, an experience that people would never think twice of doing over and over again. Many thanks to Masskom Music and Music Mgt International for making this concert possible. Watch out for more exciting concerts at the SM Mall of Asia!

BIG! BIG!
SALE
of ASIA!

April 3-6, 2009
Enjoy up to 70% off*
from over 700 shops

Mall hours | April 3, 4, 5 - 10 am to 12 mn
| April 6 - 10 am to 10 pm

* On selected items from participating stores
Permit No. AT-0107, Series of 2009

SM
MALL OF ASIA
No Other Mall Comes Close

J.W. Diokno Boulevard, Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City 1300 Philippines

Grand dinner marks La Chaine's induction gala

LA CHAINE DES ROTISSEURS El Cebu held its 38th induction gala with a grand dinner at Le Grand Mirage, Shangri-La Mactan Island Resort & Spa. It was transformed into a French garden with hedges of greenery, lit wires for lights.

The caterer's French cuisine was created by the resort's executive chef Emmanuel Gameiro, who has received numerous from the prestigious Golds Medaille. The event was attended by 130 guests, more than half of them members of La Chaine in Cebu.

Presiding were Michel and Anjanette Lhuillier, who is Bailli for the Cebu chapter. Michel is the Bailli Delegate for the entire Philippines, and on this occasion was raised to the rank of Conseil Magistral. That is tantamount to being on the international board.

Bailli Reg officer was Donald Hill, himself a Conseil Magistral as well as head of La Chaine in Hawaii. He came with his Thai fiancée Sophia Phiansunoon. After Michel, he inducted Nicolas Jolino Gullas as officer and Jose Sharpe as Vice Enchanteur of Rôtisseur Mondial des Evenements Importants which he holds in Cebu.

Bailli is some up the dais and is lapped with a golden tassel once new members join La Chaine's fold in Cebu. Hervé Lacquay read the oaths in French at traditional regalia.

New members are: Carmen Campbell, Allen Gruelo, Bernhard Bala, Marichel Thevenin, Kevin Bolard, Bernadette Domasco, Stanley Gonzales, Richard Bowell, Magdalen Oasis, Paul Sharpe, Jane Alegrado, Harold Fernstrom, Grant Gerkin, Cornelya Mangelinckx and Maria Ruby Galano. Unable to attend were Greg Hartfel, Herve Mist and Tim Rugg.

They received many congratulations from Wall, Bailli and Sanpetru, and the rest of La Chaine's top brass in Cebu—Trevor Mendonsa, Romeo Ocampo, Claude Evangelista and Nestor Alonso. Also here the Bailli in Manila, Wolfgang Hermann who came for the occasion with his lovely wife Josephine.

"The Philippines is an important area in the world map of La Chaine," said Wall. He recounted how La Chaine was established and given its coat of arms by Baron Brug Louis IX of France in 1248. Like all guilds, La Chaine was abolished during the French Revolution. It was revived in 1950 and is now a worldwide organization.

Hall had a surprise for Michel and Anjanette. In an unnamed they would be decorated with one of the highest honors La Chaine bestows—the Croix d'Honneur. They each got one, dangling from a silk collar. "For their many services to La Chaine."

Magnificent preparations

Following congratulations all night for the organizers, there was a magnificent event rounded was the Marina Shangri-La's general manager Bernard Begg, accompanied by his wife Sarah.

It started with sunrise of this gem, marquee of duckling and compote of blue berries. This came included scallops and crab cake. The Riesling Louis Bruyn Alsace 2002 gave way to Merlot Beaujeu Sommes 2002 for what came next—a roast of wild mushroom flavored with cognac.

Tasty buds were cleared by sorbet of passion fruit and champagne. Rightly so, as next on the menu was the best cuts of the evening: Chateaubriand, oven-baked, crusted with fresh truffle and interlaced with asparagus tuna.

Sherry Mitoh Aztec Rose Williams Valley 2007 came well with the main course—veal fillet roasted with ball, and served with caramelized onions. Dessert had black chocolate, fresh strawberries and cinnamon infusion.

Just as memorable as this grand event was an intimate dinner hosted by Michel and Anjanette on their home the night before, in honor of Hall. It was the perfect opportunity to meet the members of the board of La Chaine in Cebu.

JUPHANTO Ghuillier, Federico and Josephine Buccaneer and David Sharpe

SUPHA Phiansunoon, Michel Lhuillier and Donald Hall

The Gameiro restaurant's chef Robert Lilja chose as his last dinner on similar occasions. For cocktails at the garden, he prepared marinated olives, homemade pate de foie gras, and assortments of canapes.

That went well with the excellent champagne. Later, during dinner for 12 at the formal dining room, the best wines accompanied an excellent menu. Shrimp cocktail was followed by tomato soup, fresh sorbet that had wine, and a slab of Angus beef that conquered the main course.

Vintage French cognac were served at the end of the meal.

What next? The Marina Shangri-La will hold a French food festival on April 17-23. But there's always something going on, as studio friends found out the night dinner was held at Island Paradise. There's a rock right smack on the beach, high enough to have a view and spacious enough to hold a dining table.

Raymond Begg, resident manager Maria Bernice, Mildred Jones, Lesley Anne Tan, Mai Mai Reyno and Chef Suzanne hosted us about a load of fresh artichokes that are doing the delights to various dishes of Angus Italian restaurant up to March 31.

A new dish—lamb loin with foie gras—will be introduced at Aqua in April in Condo Cove, throughout March. For specials offer is scallops—baked, grilled, steamed, sautéed, pan-seared, what have you. At Tides on weekends, the buffet features that special crustacean from Zamboanga, "sarsilya." A new Chinese chef is expected at the Tea of Spring, and that means new taste dishes.

Ever had a book change your life? This is your chance to tell the world about it!

NATIONAL BOOK STORE (NBS), in partnership with the Pangasinan Department, invites you to help others discover the life-changing power of books with "Take a Book or Share a Book," a private contest that is sure to stir your creative juices. The fun photo contest aims to promote literacy and reading awareness among Filipinos by capturing personal experiences in pictures.

Open to everyone, all you have to do to join is to take a creative shot of yourself, posing with a book that has made a significant impact on your life. Take note that it can absolutely be any of your favorite books, whether it's a romance novel, an autobiography, non-fiction, or self-help.

Submitted photo entries must be in JPEG format with a standard size of minimum 300dpi, web format (72dpi). Entries must include a brief description of the photo. Just name three (for assistance) and in information must containing your name, age, contact number, mailing and e-mail addresses. If you have more than one favorite book, don't worry, you can submit as many entries as your wish.

Entries may be submitted online to nbsvalentinesday@gmail.com or by mail mail to: NBS Marketing Department at Quad Alpha Centrum Bldg., 125 Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City, 1550. Entries must be sealed in an envelope and addressed to **Valentine's Contest Ilalo Tuloy Dapat of Marketing Services.** Entries submitted via e-mail mail or in drop boxes located at NBS branches nationwide must be saved in a CD with printouts of the photo (at least 4x6 inches in size).

Selected weekly winners will be featured in the Sunday Lifestyle Section of the Inquirer. Lucy Jocelyn and will receive P5,000 worth of NBS gift certificate. At the end of the month, the best overall winner will be announced, with the Grand Prize winner getting a whopping P50,000 worth of cash and gift certificates. Second and Third Prize winners will receive P30,000 and P20,000 worth of cash and gift certificates, respectively.

Deadline for submission of entries is on May 5. For more details, and the nearest NBS branch, call 634-9441 loc. 170.

Eastwood Mall Veranda...A Foodie's Heaven on Earth

There's reasoning little on earth. You can eat food it be dining at the Eastwood Mall Veranda restaurants and tasting unique dishes each one offers that makes the discerning palate. From Euro-Japanese, rustic cuisine, period, to healthy shake-shake—there's definitely one here that can bring you to the peak of your gastronomic satisfaction.

Hard to believe? You might just convince one of the restaurants at the Eastwood Mall Veranda area owned by the well-known local and international chefs set to bring their customers a unique concept dining amid superior taste pieces. It is fast learning a new for time-saving and dining with food offerings fit for the family or for a night out with friends. What more, foodies might just have that chance to meet their chefs as the chefs of the restaurants usually hang out here, ready to give recommendations and offer a tip or two, as well.

Recently opened is Buenisimo, by Café Yastad, with Chef Gino Gonzales at its helm. After more than 20 years of bringing culinary excellence, the Café Yastad group finally ventured out of San Juan and found a new home at the Eastwood Mall Veranda. Buenisimo offers their signature Spanish yet exotic fare to the unique taste that its Tahitenian loved ever since.

Dancing on tables are some of Café Yastad's favorites and modern Spanish cuisines, such as the Angus Sauce pasta, among others which intrigues the food adventurer.

Speaking of adventure, here's one that will surely give a unique twist to the Filipino dishes that we have grown accustomed to – Greenstone, uniquely positioned, run of the century Filipino cuisines. Creations in the newest baby of Chef Florabel Co, Chef Flavia Cruz, is a lot of her passion in this one, bringing all the most loved comfort dishes a Filipino taste but given its—after all, it's named after her husband. Filipino food had never been this interesting with Greenstone's best sellers of Crispy Beef Tapa, Tocino Cooked Adobo, Lamb Adobo, and Pinatapang Pinakbet (the crunchy pinakbet with lechon kawali) among others.

Joining this alive circle is Old Vine by Chef's Quarter with Chef Mauro Bojano heading kitchen duty. Explorations, fetishes, and couples meet to Old Vine everyday for the extremely mouthwatering fine dining dishes at affordable prices. Tomato Tartare Salad, Chef's Quarter's (P) Tan Pasta, pan-seared duck, and Cantonese beef tenderloin are among must—tries. Other favorite Cantonese dishes also line up the menu featuring a wide variety of international foods, especially adapted to the Filipino taste.

Another intriguing food find in town are Flying Pig and Wu Yan, of Chef Peter Ayson and Restaurateur Raymond Magdaraog of Red Crab.

Flying Pig is a French-Vietnamese Connoisseur's haven with Baby Back Ribs, Flying Meatloaf, and Lagga-licious pig cheeks to send a diner flying on gastronomic high. Flying Pig features a light and easy going tanning ambiance for friends and officemates to bond over their most loved barbecue dishes. Just beside it is Wu Yan, meant just for families or lunch meetings, giving a big lighter as its menu. It specializes on contemporary cuisine of cooking, with their Mongolian whole fish, Manila Bangkok, and Phoenix Tremblaire as best sellers.

Thousand Dishes, on the other hand, allows one to be his own personal chef. Even kids can feel like they cooked their own food with the shake-shake style dining at this restaurant. Contemporary, it promotes a well-mess lifestyle, so much that the food serve here are perfect for those watching their diets. But what sets Thousand Dishes apart from other shake-shake resorts is that it has a la carte menus.

Ms. Kurosawa Euro-Japanese restaurants allows one to taste his imagination. This new concept lures bring a brand new taste with its alternative take on Japanese dining. Among favorites are the Salmon Mayaki Pizza, Seafood Japanese, Ebi and Uni Truffle Pasta.

Also a must try is their third quenching Fusion Dragon Lady Mango Yakult. The name is managed by Ricky Lauzon and Maleen Agustin, the same restaurateurs who created Santa Sam and John and Yoko.

Also at the Eastwood Mall Veranda is dessert oasis Red Mango which had been giving the healthy eating a whole new meaning. Red Mango is a popular import from South Korea which was invades Manila by storm. Kids, moms, and grannies, all line up for the healthy but truly scrumptious and addicting frozen yogurts of Red Mango.

So is experience heaven through earthly delights, dine at the Eastwood Mall Veranda restaurants. This is definitely a foodie's paradise with food created only by the best chefs in town. With Eastwood Mall Veranda, eating is not just something, it's feeling heaven.

Opening soon at the Eastwood Mall Veranda are Ma Thai (Valentin Cafe of Erik Cua, Bibbox by Lizette Erwin owned by Luciano Pavo Nas and Chef Marissa Nadal-Monte by Ed Cafe, and Mexicanos Bistro with Executive Chef Saji Kamura.

For more inquiries, call 709-1883 / 687-1488 or 0918-9190777 or log on to www.eastwoodcity.com.

Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

French farm experience in Abra

GOING on bike is the best way to tour the rural landscape or even the hills.

Why this simple destination has drawn the likes of Jaime Augusto Zobel and Anton Huang

By Kc Lazzaro
Contributor

NOT SO LONG AGO, ABRA province had something of a nasty reputation for its political violence, particularly the shooting of a congressman in a church wedding allegedly by a hired gun of a dishonest politician.

So it wasn't surprising that Abra was placed over in tourist bitchburn.

However, beyond its violent past, Abra holds a storehouse of simple pleasures for the traveler who wants to enjoy rustic, adventure sports and culture in refreshing doses.

Abra caught my interest when I came across a brochure promoting agritourism in the province where one town called Garcia, 15 minutes by public transportation from the provincial capital Bangued, boasts a farm resort, Fincori Ricia.

The place raises French native chicken fed with nothing but corn kernels, brews grape tea, and herbal supplements such as oregano, dill, garlic and tea apple

Romance in March
ROOMS for as low as P4,400+ per person on twin sharing
INCLUSIONS
• Full Buffet Breakfast at La Jardin Restaurant • Use of Function Swimming Pool & Gym • WiFi • City Guide • 20% off Spa
• Weddings for as low as P65,000+ inclusive of amenities
• Parties for as low as P24,750+ • Private Weddings as low as P6,750+
• Weekend Promo: 50% OFF on selected rooms
• Weekend Rest & Seafood Special for as low as P199+
City Garden Hotel

French farm experience in

THE PICTURE-PERFECT Cuenesco, tagged to the next Boracay

BACK cabin it could be comfortably charming

Why Bicol is cool

Text and photos by Miss Mark M. Sabio
Contributor

FOR A LOT OF PEOPLE, Bicol is equal to super-spicy food. However, this isn't the only thing that makes this region such a hot place to visit. From other sumptuous eats to picturesque destinations, Bicol is teeming with a lot of attractions that you certainly must experience next time you're there.

CamSur Watersports Complex

Also known as CWC, this man-made attraction is the brainchild of Camarines Sur Governor Lilian Villafuerte. It is the first ever world-class watersports complex in the country and in Asia with its regional cable ski system, impressive facilities, relaxing environment and great weather conditions. Apart from watersporting, kayaking, wakeboarding, water skiing and wakeboarding you can also play volleyball, take a dip in the swimming pool, enjoy billiards, darts and baseball at the clubhouse or go online at the Wi-Fi-enabled, Powerpoint-enthusiastic all over the globe snoop to CWC because it is what they call the best cable park in the world. In fact, they stay for a minimum of one month and go for the nearby The Mansion Suites and Villa del Rey Villas, Cottages and Trailer Homes for accommodation.

CABINS have all the amenities you need, from hot shower to your small refrigerator

RICOLANDIA place with long and lots of espresso at toppings

Good Food

Bicol is famous for its spicy food to expect a lot of hot and spicy dishes everywhere. There are various versions of laing and Bicol express, and you can even find them two specialties incorporated into other food. CWC, for example, has Bicol-style pizza, which has laing and Bicol express as toppings, and eggs benedict with laing substituted between ramen eggs and tasty bacon strips.

Pili, a Bicol specialty, is sold everywhere and is available in all sorts of confections, from tarts to mini-cupcakes, from pastilles to the caramelized kind.

Other cuisine-pleasers include fresh fruit shakes, all sorts of dishes with coconut milk, and the ever special ice-cream with ice cream of Goto nicknamed as Guinness. It's thicker than usual but it has bangkot (dawa) and is served with a lot of brown sugar, topped with vanilla ice cream and drizzled with chocolate syrup. It may not sound appetizing but after one bite, you'll come for it the next few days.

Dear Farm

Soon to the Philippines' 16th-century father Daniel and Rodolfo's friends up close at the deer breeding farm in Sta. Cruz, Quezon and even get the chance to feed the really friendly ones, especially the cutest fawns named Bambiboy. It's not everyday you see deer in the country but it's certainly a possible in Bicol.

Cuneneo

Tagged as the next Boracay for some time for having sand-less beaches and the oldest of Siete Islands, Cuneneo is made of a bunch of awesome islands with fine white sand and some teal shades of blue. The place is so scenic that the French "married" two shot here, and a couple of other stars retreated there are also already planning to use the place as location for their programs. In Cuneneo, you can stay at the quaint Gota Village Resort where you can camp inside small wooden houses complete with aircon, but choosen and cable TV. Cuneneo too has an impressive dose of nature and you can have the best dinner consisting of spicy seafood. Bicol express and ice cream for dessert, of course, by the dozen complete with a full menu, touches and facilities.

E-mail the author at miss-marksabio@yahoo.com.

Local tour guides train for int'l certification

By Anna A. Jardeleza

Among other rules—fidgeting and fiddling while talking to visitors is a no-no

THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM (DOT), with the help of the prestigious Richmond Blue Badge Tourist Guide Organization, is poised to standardize the quality, culture of local tour guides with an intensive, four-week training.

Blue Badge is the only national tourist guide qualification in UK offering a rigorous, comprehensive guiding services. Selected, trained and examined by the Institute of Tourist Guiding, Blue Badge is the internationally recognized benchmark for excellence.

Mitchelle Golden aims to produce "Blue Badge-quality" tour guides someday to guide DOT visitors in the country. Tour guides represent the country and must be "ambassadors" in guiding, well-trained and well-educated of professionals.

The training include courses in Liberal Arts such as History, Dance, Local Cuisine, Geography Antiques, Culture, Arts, Architecture, Literature, Photography, Music and Personality development. Practical, Professional Training, Tour guide Training and Field exposure/ practicum.

MICKY Godfrey-Evans

Entering the examination as school Mitchelle Golden at the end of the training program, five would be certified tour guides are expected to earn up to P6,000/day (P1,000/day if knowledgeable to another foreign language other than English).

Impressed

The generous pay lured in about 200 applicants to the Mitchelle-Guild program...50 were eventually accepted. Today, midway through the training program, only 20 participants remain.

"I am very impressed by the trainees. So far that has been the most exception, enormously bright students I've ever handled," said Micky Godfrey-Evans, Cambria and London Blue Badge Tourist Guide who has directed across the globe several Blue Badge Guide courses.

The assistant instructors include Virgilio Alcantara for Literature, Mary Encarnacion Tan for Architecture, Gloria Torres for Art, Ramon Santos for Music, Lucy Galvez for Dance, Tell Villadon for Heritage sites, Margarita Reyes for Filipino Cuisine, Jaime Laya for ecologist, Dorcie Medina for Geography, Felipe de Leon Jr. for Culture, Pilar Hernando for History and Lucy Torres for Tourism and Ecology.

Liz Fernandez handled Personality Development, while the Department of Foreign Affairs conducted the Protocol for Training.

Swelling Evans, with another Blue Badge guide, Roger Ralph from Malaysia, taught the participants techniques, tour planning, problem-solving, communication and presentation skills on how, on site and on a moving vehicle.

To excel in tour guiding, one needs combined courses, said Godfrey-Evans. Skills and techniques alone cannot make a tour guide successful. One must have a passion for the job, a love for people, and a genuine interest in the country's culture and history.

"TOP MARK, priority" to the keyboard county models for your guide exam hours, especially those in a visually challenging [illegible]

In the Spanish era, Abra was part of Ilocos Sur, until it became a politico-military province in October 1846. In 1917, no executive act by American Governor Francis Burton Harrison was made into law and established Abra as an independent province. Of late, the province has enjoyed joining the Cordillera Autonomous Region (CAR), pointing out that the province belongs to Region One physically, geographically, ethnologically and politically.

'Ilustrados'

The province is home to several illustrious heroes, including Isabelo Silang and statesman and lipeador of the Heroes Jose Quirino Morales. In the town of Tayum, the well preserved house of Silang is worth a visit. Here the flag of the UNA was hidden against Spain in the plaza. Gabriela, who had Tinggulan blood, carried on the revolt when her husband Diego Silang was shot to neighboring Ilocos.

Worth a visit is the residence of ambassador Benito Cariño. He hosts Philippine ambassador to Sri Lanka and his vast art, Chinese porcelain and rare book collection. In town by Mary Bachrach Park are centuries-old acacia trees, natural springs and man-made waterfalls.

In Bangued, the capital town, one cannot help but notice the impressive facade of San Lorenzo Ruiz Church, built in 1722. The town has a fine dining establishment offering authentic Ilocano cuisine with grilled Abanican provincial roots—pinakbet, dinengdeng, dinardaraan, inabraw, pinapaitan, kilawin, etc. Other delicacies include bagnet (deep fried pork belly), longganisa, tapa, tocino, dried fish, and the best of all, the sweet basi.

TOUR guides need to be adept in history, architecture and culture.

Abra

from page A1

ETHNIC jewelry created by the Tinggians

RENDRA has been recognized by the Department of Tourism as active agritourism destination.

dishes (minced pork and its internal organs) and dinguat. One can also order jaco, a fresh water eel caught in the Abra river and cooked as pakoke or adobo. It is also sometimes dried and served with fresh slices of tomatoes with bagoong (shrimp paste).

Other exotic local fare includes papaya, boiled vegetables also served with tomatoes and bagoong, and ulingo, stout of wild boar or deer, broiled in lots of tomatoes, onions and ginger colored with vegetables (saw and gumili). This meat has been scarce lately because of the burning ban. There's lubeg, a freshwater fish caught in the Abra River this time of the year, and dagu-dagi or stewed into a rich stew of tomatoes, garlic, ginger and onions.

Of late, locals and tourists have been trooping to Banaoao Pass for a taste of free range and organic chicken, cooked adobo, sprinkle, stir-fried chicken), or steak or tenderloin, served with steaming upland rice.

The simple feel and lush accommodation of farm chalets attract the bohemian and upmarket crowd, including Jaime Augusto Zobel and his motocross buddies like Armin Huang, show biz celebrities and local government officials.

Guesthouse

The main guesthouse seems small but once inside, you'll be surprised at how spacious this place is. Around the farmhouse one can rent bikes and go around with deserted roads and along the Abra River.

Going on bike is the best way to view the natural landscape or meet the folk. One can bike around Pidigan or go up to Malibcong and learn about local organic farming and herbal weddings, or go kayaking along the Abra River.

Banaoao Farm has three other cliffs built outside the sprawl, good for friends who want to room in. These huts were built by local artists.

For souvenirs, there are native weaves of Barangay Nalasaldas in Pocantilo town where Tinggianese also continue to craft ethnic jewelry perfect even for contemporary fashion. The handwoven cloth produced in this area are popular for the color.

There are also handcrafted furniture using wood from the province's virgin forests.

How to get there

Take the Partas Bus either in the Pasay station in Edsa or Aurora Blvd. station in Cubao, Quezon City. A bus leaves every hour, but it is best to take the late-night trip at 10 p.m. which gets you to Bangued in the early morning the next day. One-way fare is P600 with stops in Tarlac, Ilgan or La Union.

Address: Banaoao Farms, Km. 306, Gartney, Pidigan, Abra. Contact: 0917-3373639 or e-mail marissa@pacific.net.ph, lina@panoramfarm.com or gmail@info.com.ph. Visit their website at www.panoramfarm.com.

STILL A SWINGING 2!

ASSUMPTION HS BATCH '84

at Strumms

110 Jupiter St. Bel-Air II

Makati City

on Monday

23 March 2008

at 8:00 pm

Presented to you by:

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION

Co- sponsored by:

Audi

Also sponsored by:

Pacific Plaza Towers

Suzuki

Suzuki & Technologies, Inc.

2009 reasons to enjoy Singapore

Reason No. 1833

Fly Jetstar

From USD 120 roundtrip

Taxes and surcharges included!

Travel Period: April 1 - May 31, 2009

From USD 98 roundtrip

Taxes and surcharges included!

Travel Period: June 1 - August 31, 2009

Hot summer, cool prices.

Hot summer is here. So we're offering cool fares. Fly to Singapore via Jetstar from US$120 all-in return fares when you travel between April 1 and May 31, 2009. Or, better yet, pay from US$98 all-in return fares when you travel between June 1 and August 31, 2009. Contact Jetstar's booking offices or book online at www.jetstar.com

Online booking: www.jetstar.com

Jetstar Makati Office: (02) 892-4264 Cubao: 913-2792 Cebu: (32) 230-9888 Davao: (82) 224-6000 Metro Manila Call Centre: 1800-1612-0380 (Metro TOLL FREE)

Terms and conditions:

- Fares are subject to UM approval and may change without prior notice. • Fares quoted are for return trip per adult and include Passenger Service Charge and Fuel Surcharge. • Fares exclude terminal fee and travel tax (if applicable) payable at the PAAA terminal. • Seats are subject to availability and may not be available for peak periods and public holidays. • Applicable for new bookings only. • A service fee per way is applicable for Call Centre bookings. • Applicable for purchase during Call Centre Promotion Period only. • Other terms and conditions apply. • All offers, terms and conditions are subject to change without prior notice. • Other terms and conditions apply

Jetstar

jetstar.com ALL THE WORLD, LOW FARES

Reason No. 1842

Win $10,000 cash and FREE flights on Uniquely Singapore

Book now!

More reasons to visitsingapore.com/2009reasons

Singapore Tourism Board Philippines

Uniquely Singapore

Promo marks SEAIR's 14th year

To celebrate its 14th anniversary on March 25, South East Asian Airlines (SEAIR) is giving away up to P400,000 worth of discounts as a very special treat. Travelers can avail of a P1,400 discount per way on all fare classes to any of its 11 destinations when they book their flights online. To avail of this promo, travelers may log on to www.flyseair.com between March 25 and 28 and type in promo code SEA. Travel period for this promo is from June 15 to Sept. 15. Call 8386700 or book online at www.flyseair.com. The SEAIR booking office is located at the La O' Centre Bldg. 1000 Arnaiz Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City. For packages, call 8187308.

Travel Briefs

Kayaking in Pangasinan

Explore the 101 wonders of the Hundred Islands National Park in Alaminos City, Pangasinan, as the Department of Tourism opens the Philippine Kayaking Series 2009 on April 24-26. Hosted Kayak Explore Hundred Islands Summer Eco-Challenge, the event will be highlighted by a 20-km kayak marathon, 5-km orienteering fun run, and an eco-tour of the all-female islands. The race will begin in the coastal town of Bolinao and Bolinao. The event also features a travel photography exhibition by master photographer George Tapan and free kayaking clinics for first-timers. Single and tandem kayaks will be awarded to the winners during a two-victory rally. The Hundred Islands Eco-Tours Association, a community-based organization conducting kayaking tours in Quezon and average tours, will host a tour to these islands and encourages colleges and universities, private companies, and local communities to participate in the event. Call 8721428, 0915-8285021, 0919-6285014 and 0919-2455488, e-mail contact_chris@yahoo.com, or visit www.kayakphilippines.net.

RP's adventure spots

The Philippines was one of the participating countries in the recent Adventure Travel Expo (ATE) held at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Chicago, Illinois. The Department of Tourism chose the Chicago leg of the ATE as one of "active and adventure" travel shows in the US as the venue to give Americans a sneak peek of what to find in the Philippine archipelago. The ATE served as a one-stop shopping marketplace where consumers and the travel trade met thousands of travel providers offering unique vacation options and travel information. To know more about adventure spots in the country, visit www.experiencephilippines.ph.

RP's wedding destination sites

Upon the invitation of the Department of Tourism (DOT), a group of wedding coordinators, editors and other media practitioners, principals and tour operators went on a familiarization tour of the country's premier wedding destinations sites. The DOT brought the group to Manila Province by a wedding fair held in Cebu for a mock wedding at Shangri-La's Mactan Resort and Spa. Photographers and videographers documented the wedding amidst the exotic backdrop of the beach. Hotel Connoisseurs Philippines, the group that hosted out wedding dresses by renowned Filipino couturiers, participated as models for their gowns.

Place of reflection

Rizal Shrine, Southern Luzon, is a three-hour drive from Tacloban City. One of your first stops is Ground Zero at Mount Kan-abag, a place of reflection and awe. The New Sunnegan Village showcases rows of neat duplexes and bungalows in vivid colors and flowery colors. Retire to Kalalosa Cove, a seaside accommodation with inexpensive type, swimming pool, rooms with spacious toilets, and bathtubs.

8 Suites in Tagaytay

8 Suites in Tagaytay has unveiled its Bar which handles the cuisine of 8 Suites. 8 Suites is an extension of work since the first tourist facility of the owners is a bigger bed and breakfast in Boracay, which is owned by Jon and Baron Gomez.

Vacation package

With the value-laden Weekend Getaway package offered by the Mount Malarayan Club hotel and Suites, the whole family can bond together while enjoying the world-class facilities of Mount Malarayan.

Hawaiian Airlines promo

Due to requests and inquiries from travelers for a promo extension, Hawaiian Airlines across the last day of its Good West Coast Promotions from Feb. 28 to Aug. 31. Priced at $890, the West Coast Round-trip tickets may be used for travel to San Francisco, Los Angeles, Portland, Las Vegas, Phoenix, San Diego, Sacramento, San Jose, Seattle and Oakland. Tickets must be booked and used for travel on or before Aug. 31. Travelers who avail themselves of the Manila-West Coast round-trip tickets can also stay in the US for as long 90 days, and may take off from any of the aforementioned destinations. Aside from the special promotion of fare and extended ticket validity, passengers of Hawaiian Airlines are also entitled to a generous baggage allowance of two pieces at 32 kg each. Likewise, ticket exchange fees are made more affordable for economy ticket holders as a result of a recent decrease in costs. Hawaiian Airlines flies from Manila to Honolulu and other US destinations from Manila every week. Flights are scheduled every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Call 8193000 to 07.

CHRIS Pascua of MasterCard, Gina Hernandez of SM Makati, Kiki Chong of SM Department Store and Judith Dayrit of MasterCard

Shop and win TV with home theater system

SM and MasterCard give away 50 Philips LCD 42" flat TVs with Home Theatre System on SM's Shop, Win and Save Promo.

According to Pooh Villar Reid, vice president and senior country manager of MasterCard International Philippines, Inc., one of the great rewards of being a MasterCard cardholder is being able to enjoy its value-added offer that "Giving away these entertainment packages with SM is just one of the many premium perks that MasterCard offers its cardholders together with our merchant collaborations," he adds.

One of the winners, Debra Singzon, says that the brand new Philips LCD 42" Flat TV and Home Theatre System is a gift by itself. "I feel so blessed because I had been hoping for a new TV when I heard out that I won!"

The winners were treated to snacks at the SM Prestige Lounge at the fourth floor of SM Makati. For more information visit www.mastercard.com.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 1998 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

ENTERTAINMENT

IN THIS ISSUE
Pal says Dolce would rather see Pops back with Martin Rushes/14

Kuh Ledesma faces labor charges

By Mariaan Limos
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SAN PEDRO, LAGUNA—JUNGGIRL Kuh Ledesma is being sued for unfair labor practice by the daughter of a former employee who died as a result of burns sustained during a fire in the singer's Binondo Isabella resort in Isabang, Cavite.

Alice P. Avellana, eldest daughter of Elito Pula, filed the charges on Feb. 20, citing d was Pula (Syngcuk).

The complaint, lodged before the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) in Calamba City, involves underpayment of salaries and wages, nonpayment of overtime pay, holiday and rest-day pay, 13th month pay and SSS benefits.

Avellana said that, on May 3 last year, Pula, 71, employed by Ledesma as a cook since 1968, was working at Binondo Isabella when she accidentally got burned while sparring denatured gin, which was highly combustible, to ignite a grille.

Pula reportedly sustained third degree burns on about 40 percent of her body and died of blood infection due to the burns 22 days after the accident.

Avellana, quoting eyewitnesses who witnessed the accident, said her mother sustained wounds, screaming for water.

She lodged was said to have called for assistance, but Ledesma scolded her for disturbing an ongoing Function.

A driver finally put out the fire on her mother's body using a water hose, Avellana said. And instead of taking Pula to the hospital, she said, Ledesma inserted first the old woman stay at the resort.

"Ledesma could have taken what to the hospital—that's a matter," said Avellana, adding that the singer-actress properly paid even her medical.

No police record

Cavite police said it has no record of the accident.

According to the complaint, the incident happened at around 9 a.m., but then it was only about three hours later when Pula was brought to Ledesma's home in Pasay City that to the Philippine General Hospital for treatment.

Before the left for a concert in the United States early this week, Ledesma said in a TV interview: "It was an accident, no one wanted this to happen."

Speaking on behalf of Ledesma, a PGMC staffer told the Inquirer that "most of the charges are false."

The staffer added, "Kuh did everything she could. She footed the hospital bills and funeral expenses. As for the back wages and related issues, the proper forum would be a court of law" —no adviser that Avellana apparently heeded.

The first hearing was scheduled Wednesday at the NLRC in Cebu. he City but neither Ledesma nor her lawyer showed up.

The next hearing is set March 25. With a report from Jhayson San Diego Jr.

KE & PJ IN PARIS
KE Concepcion is Pinki Pacquil is selling tour guide in the City of Light. Showbiz Page/14

ARE YOU FAT?
Hydroxydase Mineral Water
"BEGLEN MODI POWDER, ERGARCEB BETARCELAN
MIRACLE ANSWER FROM FRANCE
IMPORTER - ATLANTIC ARCHERS ACHIEVERS CORP.

Arnida: Scrap censors body

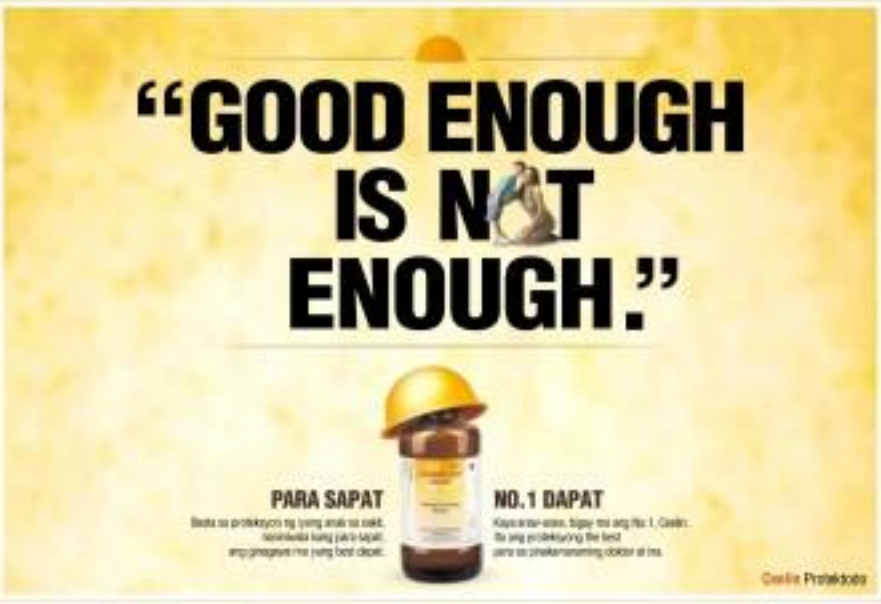
By Rigoberto Dan Diego Jr.

THE LAW THAT CREATED THE Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) should be evaluated again—it parked altogether.

That was Arnida Figueroa Reyes—a former board chair—commenting on the row between the MTRCB and the University of the Philippines over permits for film showings.

Arnida said the law is clear: "UP doesn't need permits from the board," because both "the UP charter and the Constitution protect academic freedom."

Last month, current censors chief Montaz Laguardia sent a letter to UP president Emerlinda Pestaño, expressing concern over the "public and commer-



SM CINEMA movietime

WATCH IT AT

DIRECTOR'S CLUB

NOW SHOWING AT SM CINEMAS

METRO MANILA

RESERVED SEATS NOW AVAILABLE

IMAX

FLY ME TO THE MOON
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL
DINOSAURS
SEA MONSTER

PODIUM

THE PUNISHER: WARZONE
RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN
LATE SCREENINGS

CINEMA 1

JONAS BROTHERS

LUZON

VISAYAS + MINDANAO

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS NOW ACCEPTED IN ALL SM CINEMA BRANCHES

CINEMA ACCESS: 395-5555

MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

GALLERIA

1 WATCHMEN
2 THE PUNISHER
3 RACE to WITCH MOUNTAIN
4 THE SECRET of MOONACRE
5 SUNDO
6 YOU CHANGED MY LIFE
7 THE UNICORN
8 IndieSine: ONE NIGHT STAND
9 DAY SEX in the 70's
10 TAKEN

ERMITA

1 TAKEN / THE UNICORN
2 RACE to WITCH MOUNTAIN
3 THE SECRET of MOONACRE
4 THE PUNISHER
5 SUNDO
6 YOU CHANGED MY LIFE
7 WATCHMEN

METRO EAST

1 THE UNICORN
2 RACE to WITCH MOUNTAIN
3 SUNDO
4 THE PUNISHER
5 THE SECRET of MOONACRE
6 TAKEN
7 WATCHMEN
8 YOU CHANGED MY LIFE

NOVALICHES

1 SUNDO
2 THE PUNISHER
3 RACE to WITCH MOUNTAIN
4 THE SECRET of MOONACRE

PIONEER

1 THE SECRET of MOONACRE
2 RACE to WITCH MOUNTAIN
3 SUNDO
4 THE PUNISHER

STA. ROSA

1 RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN
2 THE PUNISHER
3 SHAOLIN GIRL
4 SUNDO

LIPA

1 RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN
2 SUNDO
3 THE PUNISHER
4 YOU CHANGED MY LIFE

DASMARIÑAS

1 RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN
2 THE PUNISHER
3 SUNDO
4 STREETFIGHTER

IMUS

1 SUNDO
2 THE PUNISHER
3 RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN
4 STREETFIGHTER

ANGELES

1 RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN
2 SUNDO
3 STREETFIGHTER
4 THE PUNISHER

STARMILLS

1 THE PUNISHER
2 YOU CHANGED MY LIFE
3 SHAOLIN GIRL
4 RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN
5 SUNDO
6 STREETFIGHTER

BACOLOD

1 RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN
2 WATCHMEN
3 THE PUNISHER
4 SHAOLIN GIRL
5 SUNDO
6 YOU CHANGED MY LIFE

ILOILO

1 WATCHMEN
2 THE PUNISHER
3 SUNDO
4 RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN
5 YOU CHANGED MY LIFE
6 STREETFIGHTER

MOVIEWORLD

can be your Cinema

We can be your venue for advance screenings, private film viewings, corporate and school events and other organizational functions.

Flo Rida back on top of US charts

THESE ARE THE 10 best-selling record-ed music in the United States, as they appear to scor world's most of RE-based maga-zine Platinum digi-tallion sales of more than 1 million copies sold, gold, more than 500,000 copies.)

1) "Right Round," Flo Rida feat. Ke$ha, Poe Boy/Atlantic, (Platinum)

2) "Bread and Gone," U2, feat. Justin Timberlake, Grand Theatre/Interscope, (Platinum)

3) "Poker Face," Lady GaGa, Streamline/InterLove/Cherrytree/Interscope,

4) "Hit Me Thru the Phone," Jordin Sparkle, Tell You feat. Jordin Sparkle, Colgrove/Jive/Interscope,

5) "My Life Would Suck Without You," Kelly Clarkson, RCA/RMG,

6) "Bless You Hole," The All-American Rejects, Greg Investor/DGC/Interscope,

7) "Breathless," Jonas West, Rec-ords/Jive/Jive Jon/IE-MG,

8) "Home" ft." Jamie Foxx feat. T. Dois, J/RMG,

9) "The Climb," Miley Cyrus, Walt Disney/Hollywood,

10) "Just Dance," Lady GaGa feat. Colby O'Donis, Streamline/InterLove/Cherrytree/Interscope, (Platinum) -AP

ARMIDA. Signature Repos.

Armida: Scrap...

To see page A1

nal exhibition of films at the EP Film Institute) that have no corresponding records."

Armida cited Presidential Decree 1986, the Motion-ure law that created the BTRCB. There are three exemptions to this law, she said: The Cultural Center of the Philippines, foreign embassies and UP.

Not just Dilman

It's not just Dilman that's exempted from the rule, Ferro said. "Even UP Visayas and UP Los Baños."

Legarda differed, saying there's no law exempting UP and its CUE.

The law does not, di-rect, say allegedly only in UP doesn't make the screenings commercial or public," Armida contended. "What if [for-ge-president, now] to raise funds?" As for the audience, she said, they're foreign families and therefore are under the board's jurisdiction.

Legarda agreed with this, but noted that films included in festivals open-ed by members still pass through the board.

The perfect spot
for concerts, stage plays
& corporate events.
Now accepting bookings
for March to May 2009.

So, for real quality shows,
catch the limelight
at OnStage Greenbelt!

Greenbelt
For booking & inquiries, please call 757-7882 & 757-3861 or 62.

Legarda Theatre | Gateway | Ayala Malls Cinemas | Greenbelt | Glorietta | Trinoma | Market! Market! | Alabang Town Center | Ayala Center Cebu | Superstar

Gateway CinePlex 10

PUNISHER: WARZONE	SUNDO	THE SECRET OF MOONACRE
YOU CHANGED MY LIFE	UNBORN	TAKEN
PUNISHER: WAR ZONE		
RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN	PLATINUM CINEMA	PUNISHER: WAR ZONE

Ayala Malls Cinemas

YOU CHANGED MY LIFE	WATCHMEN	PUNISHER: WAR ZONE
RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN	SUNDO	

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

Shop, dine & watch a movie with your barkada to win FREE trip to Europe for 4

Grand European Vacation

Drink COKE & load P20 Globe to double your chances of winning

Plus $5,000 pocket money + Tax-free
Mar 2 - May 7

BETSY WESTENDORP
REFLECTIONS
A painting exhibition of the renowned visual artist and Presidential Medal of Merit awardee
March 13-23, 2009
Mandarin Oriental Suites, Alabang Mall

Ayala Malls Cinemas
BIG SCREEN BLOWOUT
Get a free movie ticket with a minimum P300 purchase from Ayala Malls Cinemas
March 9 - 15
Plus! Free popcorn with every 4th Mall Cinema ticket purchase

At the Malls
GLORIETTA
Weekend Gaga at G9: Featuring True Faith
March 28, 6pm, Glorietta 2 Atrium
GREENBELT
Secondhand Serenade Live
March 28, Greenbelt 3 Park
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
10 to 10 Town Sale
March 27to 29, Metrowide
AYALA CENTER CEBU
Secondhand Serenade Live
March 30, 7pm, The Terraces
MARKET! MARKET!
Automatic Center Appliance Fair
March 9-31, Activity Center
TRINOMA
Secondhand Serenade Live
March 29, 6pm, Activity Center
ONSTAGE
Now accepting bookings for March to May 2009
For booking & inquiries, pls. call 757-7882 & 757-3861

Top Chefs cook something up at the Ayala Malls!

glorietta | Greenbelt | Alabang Town Center | Ayala Center Cebu | Trinoma

KC: "Helped go to places that only Parisians are familiar with."

KC plans to show PJ her Paris

'I'll bring him to small cafés, quaint shops and secret gardens'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

ON THE EVE OF HER flight to France last week, KC Concepcion told Inquirer Entertainment that she'd gladly act as "tourist guide" to her "Lovers in Paris" co-star Paulo Avelino.

"But I won't take him to touristy spots like the Louvre and Eiffel Tower," she noted. "That's too much of a cliché. I'd rather show him small parks, coffee shops and secret gardens—places that only Parisians are familiar with."

When she visited the French capital with Richard and Raymond Gutierrez last year, they spent a lot of time in the posh boutiques of Saint-Germain.

"Richard and Raymond love shopping," she related. "Richard and Paulo go for different things, though. I think Paulo is simpler."

She'll try to make Paulo sample the best of French cuisine, specifically escargot and seafood, she said.

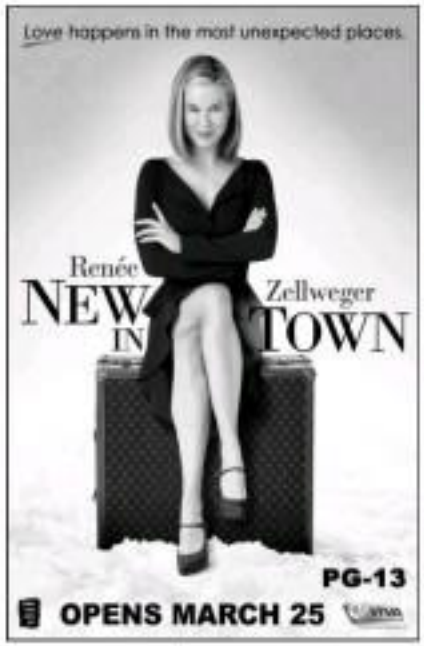
"I'll take him to Pierre Hermé for the macaroons," she said. "It's also the season for seafood, so he should have fresh oysters."

They'll be in Paris for three weeks, taping stuff every day.

"I'm sure we'll have time to sit down and eat in my favorite restaurants. But I hope to take him to my school (American University) and my old apartment near the city center and Eiffel Tower)."

Another must-see spot on her list is Montmartre. "I just know that Dolce will like that place because of the view and the church there."

A builder, she would like to visit is the one dedicated to St. Thérèse of Lisieux. "They say that if you make a wish there, the answer will come to the form of a rose," she recounted. "But I won't tell Paulo that."



ALEXIS Grace, 21, is edged out of Ali's Top 10, crossing the summer tour that is expected to give the finalists critical exposure.

'American Idol' down to its final 10

NEW YORK—FANS OF "AMERICAN IDOL" eliminated Alexis Grace from the show's eighth season on Wednesday when they cast the fewest votes for the Memphis singer's rendition of Dolly Parton's "Jolene" during country music week.

Grace, 21, was seen packing after the show's four judges declined to use their exemption save option to spare her from elimination at the end of the Grand Ole Opry week.

"It was good," said judge Simon Cowell after Grace replaced the song that got her the fewest fan votes out of more than 31 million cast this week. "But it wasn't good enough."

Wrong song choice

On Tuesday, the judges took issue with Grace's choice of song, with the show's resident judge, Kara DioGuardi, saying the singer had lost some of her "edge."

Grace was philosophical after her loss, saying, "I wish I could have done better, but ... things happen for a reason."

Wednesday's elimination was revised because only the show's top 10 finalists will join the "American Idol" summer tour, providing critical exposure for the nine finalists who don't actually win the big prize.

Wednesday night's live show also featured the cast of season 4 winner Carrie Underwood, who performed a duet of "I Told You So" with singer Randy Travis.

The remaining finalists are: Adam Lambert, Anoop Desai, Danny Gokey, Kris Allen, Lil Rounds, Matt Giraud, Megan Joy Scott Mackenzie, Michael Sarver and Allison Iraheta. Reuters

'Best of Aliw' at the CCP

PILITA CORRALES LUADS SOME 32 performers in "Best of Aliw" a musical revue tonight at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. The show is part of the CCP's 40th anniversary celebration and also features Ogie Alcasid, Rico J. Puno, Basil Valdez, Colette Lagdameo, Yeng Tomas, Gary Valenciano, the Madrigal Singers, Bayanihan Dance Co., Lea Salonga, Jed Madela, among others.

SHOW TIME

March 26

Join Legend at the Amanta Inlaw. call 811.3333.

March 27

Ada A and the Philippine Philhar monic Orchestra at the CCP Call 832. 1000.

ENTERTAINMENT

4 pop divas and a stage star

FOUR DIVAS. (From left) Rob Ledesma, Zsazsa Padilla, Pops Fernandez and Regine Velasquez rehearse and unwind the PILAM rendition a press corridor their show on March 28 at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium. PHOTOS BY JOVEN ALMERIO

LOS ANGELES—AMID HIS EXhilaration on being chosen as a finalist on the "Oscar Hodgson Challenge" last month, **Ahmad Bennette** was cautious about discussing "Divas + Divas" concert in Lily. He asked if we were actually the show starring four of the Philippines' best performers: **Rob Ledesma**, **Zsazsa Padilla**, **Pops Fernandez** and **Regine Velasquez**.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Rinkoy V. Sepulveda

Bah!, curiosity about the LA stop of the show that packed the Araneta Coliseum last December supper swift. Ke Montevilla Entertainment, which is promoting the concert on Saturday, March 28, 7:30 p.m. at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium. Another gauge that the concert may be a huge hit was a sense of voice excitement and anticipation in the air at the press conference last Wednesday evening at the Celebrity Center in Hollywood.

The Key Divas, Divine Diva, Concert Queen and Asia's Songbird appeared more like classmates for our college classmates as they sat before a table on the stage, taken flow but entering them as they answered questions from the Filipino-American press.

Rob, clad in black, is still very much the shaped charmer she has always been. Zsazsa is the sexy siren in the bunch. Pops comes across as the friendly one, at ease with her fellow divas.

Regine once more another title, Pammy Diva, if she keeps being as amusing as she was at the press conference. When a reporter asked why **Lani Misalucha** was not included to make "Five Divas," Zsazsa joked that Rob and Lani will "beat their own way over—"Rob-Lani."

Midway through the press con, we wanted either Regine to just stand up and keep delivering her hilarious one-liner from more or all four of them to stand up and sing. That didn't happen since the ladies had more things to do like posing with the show's sponsors for pictures. For concert Pilipino in LA, the place to be next Saturday is the Pasadena Civic Auditorium where the divas are expected to display vocal pyrotechnics and, we hope, funny banter in between their numbers. More information about the show is available on www.mediaentertainment.com.

Feeling homesick

"Some things have been updated since we last did it but, never fret, fellow Pilipos, the Filipino character is still in it."

That's Filipino-American actress **Marie-France Arellis**, however about "Pilipinas," the musical recounted in Florida last year and playing at the renewed Old Globe in San Diego, California.

We wrote last June that when Marie-France (we like to dub that she's a stage diva in the making) ran in Florida rehearsing for the revamping of "Pilipinas"—which started around Tony nominations on its Broadway premiere in 1978—she was surprised with a brand new song with Filipino lyrics to boot, for her to sing. Lin-Manuel Miranda, whose ever musical "In the Heights" went on to rule four Tonys last year, was tapped to add that new song and rewrite her lines. A reader who requested anonymity wrote: FIL rating a Filipino, Aileen Paraiso, helped Lin-Manuel with the Filipino lyrics.

"Singalila ako ngay?" we quiz

(PDP 6)

CLICK!

Documentary on recession-hit Pinoys

MARIANE MIETTE DIRECTS GOOD BY "WALANG HIYA," A DOCUMENTARY THAT ILLUSTRATES THE IMPACT OF global recession on local industries. Tonight at 10:45 on ABS-CBN 7. Mika Enriquez hosts, while Marlon Rivera documents the plight of ordinary Filipinos affected by the recession. In episode showing Orlando Manaois's a special treasury person.

HARIS FRANCE Arrilla plays a flight attendant and several other characters in the comical, "Working."

4 pop di

ed Mark Feuer to sing song to which she perform mother singing to her daughte song. The mother is one of characters that Mark Feuer out more—Bernyas Lynne Pilipinas Debut, Danielle Co Nelled Jodel and Adam Mar throughout "Working," whi the love and heartaches of ea on, from immigrants to dr death.

Great feedback

Nina Dass and Stephen the award-winning compo such musicals as "Wicked," "I Elizabeth," adapted "Working" best-selling book by Pulitze are Studs Terkel and ad songwriters, including folk-r Jimmy Taylor, to contribute s As she did in the production pre production in Toronto Mark Feuer broke began he ing career in Manila: it can ublic relations in the current ho situation of "Working."

Valdez's Bob Valez, in f panied the musical and cho the cast, including Nina Dass Mikel Andi Jodel, standing ovation at the evening's spirit by singing anyone o right to narrate a few lines. Manila Mikel Jodel, standing did not answer up about bod Duvall's unbearably standing lines, and Mimi Feuer Ant tated still found."

Los Angeles Times' Gusto declared: "The women in

MS. FILIPINAS: Universe Pamela Bianca Manalo, a Philippine Airlines domestic flight attendant, with PSA president Jaime J. Bautista.

SHANG CINEPLEX

1) PUNISHER: WARZONE R-13 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00
2) RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN GP 12:50, 3:00, 5:15, 7:20, 9:30
3) WATCHMEN / TAKEN R-13/ PG-13 12:30, 3:30 / 4:00, 9:40
4) THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PAJAMAS PG-13 12:45, 2:45, 4:50, 6:55, 9:00
SUNDO PG-13 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40

MONSTERS VS ALIENS

GET YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE AT THE SHANG CINEPLEX

Shangri-La Plaza Mandaluyong, Metro Manila Tel. 633 2301 ext. 2100 www.shangrilaplaza.com

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

DIGITAL

1 TAKEN - R13 1:00, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10
2 PUNISHER: WAR ZONE - R13 1:10, 3:30, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20
3 SECRET OF MOONACRE - GP 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20
4 SUNDO - PG 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:30, 10:40
5 CINEMA 5
6 CINEMA 6
ULTRA 7 Cinema
Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City Tel. 634-0688 to 91 www.eastwoodcity.com

Need a way to show your appreciation?

Ayala Malls Cinemas' PRIVILEGE PASS

A powerful way to recognize friends, family, or co-workers without pulling a dent in your budget.

Give them the gift that everyone enjoys!

Available at any Ayala Malls Cinemas' box office

Leonardo DiCaprio Kate Winslet

Revolutionary Road

EXCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENT NOW ON ITS 2ND WEEK AT GLORIETTA 4 & TRINOMA CINEMAS

4 BEST PICTURE

"the best American film of the year." —Peter Travers, Rolling Stone

"raw and riveting." —Joe Morgenstein, The Wall Street Journal

2ND WEEK

EVIL WILL DO ANYTHING TO LIVE

R-13

UNBORN

POWER PLANT CINEMA

MALL, GREENBELT CENTER, MAKATI TEL. 888-3456

TAKEN - R13 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10
SECRET OF MOONACRE - GP 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20
THE PUNISHER: WARZONE - R13 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30
RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN - GP 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30
WATCHMEN - R13 12:40, 3:50, 7:00, 10:00
RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN - GP 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30

HOW TO BE SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GREENHILLS CINEMAS

THEATRE MART

1 2 PROMENADE 3 4 5

MANILA'S NO 1

ALL AGES ADMITTED

DWAYNE JOHNSON

RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN

THE RACE IS ON

NOW ON ITS 2ND WEEK

MMTA MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

Movies/Schedules Prices Subject To Change Without Prior Notice

GREENHILLS CINEPLEX

GREENHILLS CINEMAS

FESTIVAL SUPERMALL

Walter Mart

GENERAL AUDIENCE ALL AGES ADMITTED

BASED ON THE BOOK THAT INSPIRED HARRY POTTER

"The Secret of Moonacre' fed my creative spirit and acted as my inspiration for Harry's adventures." -J.K. Rowling, creator of Harry Potter

DAKOTA BLUE RICHARDS as 'The Golden Compass'

THE SECRET OF MOONACRE

NOW SHOWING

Let your imagination take flight

...was ...

(Marie-France Arcilla, Danielle Lee Gonzaga and Donna Lynn Champlet) eclipse the rest, though Wayne Jawad makes a strong showing as a rather grappling-with-realism and-an-homework-or-who-knows-he's-part of a "dying breed."

Marie-France, who appeared in plays in New York where she lives, chimed with us via e-mail her excitement about being in the West Coast. "The first thing that comes to mind is how happy I am to be doing this show again on so many levels! I love the show itself. I literally love the people that I am working with and I love that I am in San Diego while it is 30 degrees in New York City. I've already frozen my local boutique! Our G Filipino representative (basic and laid-designer, bilingual, Gudetama, and loud) from (Snorkeling And Lessons) (!) is the loveliest soul. Oh, and hair. Music!"

About the show which opened last March 22, she added: "We had a great opening night—both Lea Salonga and Sharon Cuneta and Stephen Schwartz were there but not currently playing to great houses. I think the show is so much more relevant now given the current economic climate. A lot of what the characters say in the show about their jobs and how they feel about them really hit home, more so now than it did a year ago in Florida."

Follow fabulousness in Southern California with Marie-France while she's on tour route with "Wishing." More information about the musical which runs through April 12 is on sweetsmusic.globe.org.

(Email the columnist at rosario_1005@yahoo.com and read his blog "The Nipsito Report" on http://blogs.inquirer.net/nipsitoreport)

...riend: Dulce would...

...ernet**

...ilino fixture appearing on here (also Idol program, there, ...ance event of any other broadcaster-media-only ...ter GMA and its subsidiaries and affiliates without the ...n request of GMA. Okla has not given him his consent ...pears on ABS-CBN."

...s not to reiled Bicol: "Salih ilvin ito ito-sinching ...ence Jon Gitchi 71—Pinoy Network' and 'Eney Bata, ...Entertainment-offered projects in Miami' ... United ...ith your abroad, a drama series, concerts in Las Vegas ...and Angeles ... and he lays claim in Canada and hosting ...around the Philippines. The network may have to re-...these acts in light of the recent developments."

...ndys-reports

...ter Bong Osorio, head of ABS-CBN Corporate Communications, was in retort:

"We are very happy with the decision of Bitoy/Boyet to let bygones be bygones. As for our friendly partner, we shall support Mariel's pledge to bring home to the Philippines and his [young-]...I love and missed the world. ... So Bitoy, we say 'Welcome home, Kapamilya.'"

* * *

...of the tabloids

...ng show biz stories in PH tabloid literature this week. ...ly we are amused, if we are honest.)

Pope saga

...ding-day greeting Ashlan, Armand Tiburcio pegged ...ter Pope Bernardo at Manila Marriott. (Ay, bawa na ...)

...ope & slam Jeng habit minsan ojec si Armael. (Ahem ...ol Armael?)

...Jeng ang galit kay Manila ... Wagkang mahiyaan ...an ni Pope—Armael (Tiburcio dahil kay Martin?)

...ael, sabihin ang ayaw, pinagsasabi si Manila? (Funny ...what he said of Manila.)

...essentials

...Jeng Salonga ng **Dingdong Dantes** ...ahlibot. (Actually, matanda.)

...dy Ann Santos ...ipon nang makipagbalikan si Jeng ...anes. (Di bleed nothing.)

...ulo nang ...ahlibo—Kimbee. (Emphasis on money or ...?)

...ntino Holli at **Sunshine Dizon** mag-Shiv nga bang ...? (Emphasis on libro or talagang?)

Richelle Madrigal label sa kaibo. (Di like-label.)

...Abrigues nyanga habang nakiromance si **Ara Mi...** ...bilao ... Hah.)

...Rosenada Bautista nagpatanik ng boobs. (That's how ...ne?)

...s, and traps

...ah Icenhower at Konrad Cruz magbalikan na. Mismo ...day Abrigues ng (2)Bayo (mas, mismo).

...amadyan Mercado ibinunsalo kahiya ang style ni ...Ogilvie mga!)

PNB SPECIAL ASSETS MANAGEMENT SECTOR

PUBLIC AUCTION

up to 40% discount as low as 8% interest

APRIL 2, 2009 • THURSDAY • 2:00 p.m. • TOP PLAZA HOTEL Echavez St. corner Quezon Ave., Dipolog City

...

■ PROPERTIES FOR SALE ARE ON AN "AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS ■ PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Purchase Proposals submitted prior to auction will be treated as "UNSOLICITED". Submission must be to PNB Special Assets Management Head Office Manila until March 27, 2009 at 5pm. The auctioneer reserves the right at anytime to pull out, or update auction properties in the event that ...

UP TO 40% ON DISCOUNTS!
INTEREST RATES AS LOW AS 8%*
PAYMENT TERMS UP TO 10 YEARS

AUCTION INQUIRY

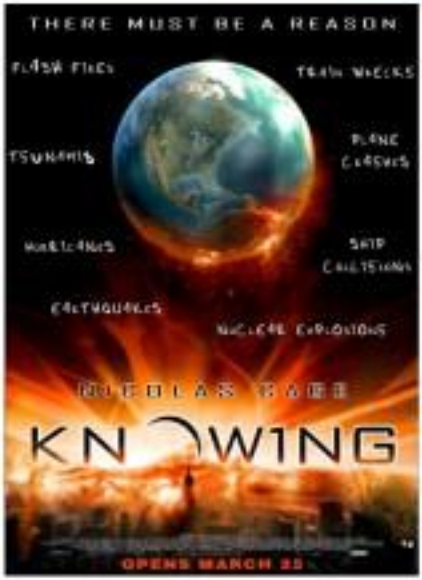
SPECIAL ASSETS MANAGEMENT SECTOR

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Regional Asset Management Center

MINDANAO SUBBANDA

WESTERN SUBBANDA



Friend: Dulce would rather see Pops back with Martin

By the Inquirer Entertainment staff

MARIAN CRUZ SPOKE WITH THE best friend of **Pops Fernandez**'s mother, Dulce Ledesma and discovered we were laughing stuff.

"Like any mother, she is very protective of her daughter. If she had her way, she wanted Pops to reconcile with Martin," Aster wrote, somehow seven years after Martin and Ledesma's scandal blazed for almost 30 years, told Cruz.

Pops (as we all know, the duo split just broke up with her boyfriend of four years, actor and new music producer **Jessie Vilmos**.

Jessie was caught on interview with Ledesma—since Fernandez had flown to the US for a concert (Only in Hollywood, page 11), but the singer's assistant told Cruz in cold meetings, "Jessie gives Pops Sony rulings."

Aster's son very confident about her own observations: "Knowing Pops' loved ones, Dulce was the most affected by the breakup." She said she and Ledesma in 1991, when Fernandez first broached an affair of Dulcinea Rowan.

Aster added: "Dulce said to tell me that she [was] praying for Pops and Martin to get back together because they have kids. Robin and Ryan, and [also because] she [herself] came from a broken family and did not wish [it on] her kids to grow children."

Ledesma has remained good friends with Martin's mom, Conchita Sunco, Aster said, and she "got along fine" with Vilmos. "Of course, we don't know [right now] what's on Dulce's mind. But Pops is already of age, anyway."

Fernandez and Vilmos broke up two weeks after their pro-Valentine show, "Missing You," at the Big Dome, which the latter produced.

RUSHES SUNDAY

According to Aster, Fernandez was excited about the gig because she had not performed onstage with Martin for over five years, and because she "wanted to help" Vilmos.

Aster refused to elaborate. "It's difficult to talk about what I know. The breakup was a surprise to me, too. They were very inattentive."

Hanky-sex workers ... online

A website features several boys "for rent"—including Manny Acta, former member of multi-male group.

HA has made some sexy movies, most of which were caught in video. Gay Publicist tipped Starbuck off about HA, claiming that a colleague had a tender tryst with the star for P40,000.

On the website, HA's photos and phone numbers are proudly displayed, plus graphic comments about the "services" he offers.

Extended leave

Mr. Filipino-Universe **Dennis Simon Rhodes**, a Philippine-Airlines domestic flight attendant, previously asked PAL president Jesus J. Bacalso for an extended leave of absence so she could prepare for the Miss U pageant in the Philippine in October. Of course she got it!

Shower stool

In yet another blog is the photo of Indie actor in boots, only-wearing in a bridal shower. Ketnet, title our hand in coins by, since the post, on Jr.'s choice tanning in such private shows.

Freebie lifesaver

Most life insider invited boater Dr. Ortiz to a friend's beauty clinic. Shortly after, HH received a text from Dr. "I got two treatments from Dr. Nick Belo." A non-scientific hint that HH experts a freebie, said SH.

Professional bars

Throughout their affair, Oliver Celebrity supported her youngest children Bernhard. A friend claims that HH would be shooting in HC's condo when she left for work in the morning. He would still be in dreamland upon her return at night.

When HH found a job, he promptly dumped HC.

What a mess!

Senate Pro[illegible] champ started a new awkward way.

Kipper notice has dispatched a [illegible] statement that says, in part:

"2008 Network is very disappointed with the approval decision of Manny Pacquiao to transfer from Solar Sports to Host Direct with GMA 7) to ABS-CBN the right to broadcast his fight with Ricky Hatton on May 2, 2009 and to other [illegible] fights."

Mr. Manny Pacquiao has a separate contract with ABS Network which [illegible]

PAGE 6